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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Madrid Talks

Syrian Foreign Minister Briefs Press *[Damascus Radio]* 1
More on News Conference *[Damascus Radio]* 1
Syrian Team Chief on Talks With Israelis *[Amman Radio]* 2
Jordanian, Palestinian Delegates Assess Talks 3
'Abd-al-Shafi on Priorities *[Amman TV]* 3
Additional Comments *[Amman Radio]* 3
Jordanian Asserts Validity of 242 *[Amman TV]* 4
'Ashrawi on Palestinian-Israeli Talks *[Amman Radio]* 4
On Coordination Efforts *[MENA]* 5
Jordanian Spokesman on Bilateral Talks *[Amman Radio]* 6
On Possible Resumption *[Amman Radio]* 7
On Washington as Preferred Venue *[Amman Radio]* 7
Bethlehem's Frayj Favors Washington *[MENA]* 7
Next Talks 'Strenuous and Lengthy' *[Jerusalem International]* 8
Joint Delegation Heads Meet Baker *[Amman Radio]* 8
Lebanese Chief Delegate on Session With Israelis *[Amman Radio]* 9
Israelis React to Conference Developments 9
Netanyahu: 'Good Day for Israel' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 9
'Very Friendly' Talks with Jordanians *[Madrid Radio]* 9
Egyptian Foreign Minister Interviewed 10
Offers Aid in Talks *[Jerusalem TV]* 10
On Possible Mubarak-Shamir Meeting *[DAVAR 3 Nov]* 11
Meets Baker, Prince Bandar; Departs *[MENA]* 11
Maghreb Union Chief on Madrid Talks *[Algiers VOP]* 11
Syrian, Israeli Delegations Depart Madrid *[Madrid Radio]* 11

Inter-Arab Affairs

AMU Secretary General Appointment Approved *[APS]* 12

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat's 'Restrained' Speech on Madrid Talks *[Paris LE MONDE 2 Nov]* 12
Palestinians 'Forced' To Go to Madrid *[Algiers VOP]* 13
Anticipates Conference 'Failure' *[Algiers VOP]* 13
PLO Spokesman 'Very Positive' About Israeli Talks *[Madrid Radio]* 13
PLO's Nabil Sha'th on Talks Venue, Dates *[Madrid TV]* 14
Bassam Abu-Sharif on Bilateral Negotiations *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Al-Sus Proposes Jerusalem Capital of 2 States *[Paris TV]* 15
Palestinians To Present 24 Demands in Memorandum *[Algiers VOP]* 15
• Details of PLO-Jordan Agreement on Delegation *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 27 Oct]* 16
• Furayj on Delegation's Role in Conference *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Oct]* 17
Editorial Notes Israeli 'Evasion' at Madrid Talks *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 1 Nov]* 22
Settlement Issue Demands 'Strong U.S. Position' *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 31 Oct]* 22
Editorial Views Bush Speech, Advice to Israel *[AL-SHA'B 31 Oct]* 23
Commentary Examines Start of Bilateral Talks *[Algiers VOP]* 24

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Ministers Postpone Formal Meeting *[AFP]* 24

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

El Oumma Not To Participate in Elections *[Algiers Radio]* 25
FFS Leader Reconfirms Nonsupport for Government *[Algiers Radio]* 25
Council Rules Election Law Unconstitutional *[Algiers TV]* 25
Two New Parties Formed; Total of 52 Parties *[Algiers Radio]* 25

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Talks, Israel Settlement Policy *[MENA]* 25
Musa Meets With Mubarak on Talks, Comments *[MENA]* 25
Paper Says Talks Possible in 3 Weeks in Cyprus *[Cairo Radio]* 26
Mubarak Delivers Address at Cairo University *[Cairo TV]* 26
Mubarak To Deliver 'Important' Address 14 Nov *[MENA]* 31
Plan To Accept Israel in United Europe Denounced *[MENA]* 31
Assurances Received From Libya on Border Crisis *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 4 Nov]* 31
Interior Minister on Libyan Ties, Madrid Talks *[MENA]* 31
Agreement Signed With Libya on Air Cooperation *[MENA]* 32
Opposition Condemns Conference, Calls for Jihad *[AL-SHA'B 29 Oct]* 32
Commentary Praises Baker's Efforts, Madrid Talks *[Cairo Radio]* 32
Paper Terms Madrid Conference 'Historic Landmark' *[Cairo Radio]* 33
Paper Criticizes Tehran Conference Recommendations *[MENA]* 34
Hungarian Prime Minister Arrives for Visit *[MENA]* 34
Meets With Sidqi *[Cairo Radio]* 34
Official Talks Open *[MENA]* 34

Libya

Sudan's General al-Bashir Arrives for Visit *[JANA]* 34
Meets With Officials *[JANA]* 35
Meets With al-Qadhdhafi *[JANA]* 35
Attends Banquet Hosted by Jallud *[JANA]* 35
Concludes Visit *[Tripoli Radio]* 35
Yugoslav Macedonian President Arrives in Tripoli *[JANA]* 35
Discusses Cooperation With Officials *[Tripoli Radio]* 35
Ends Visit, Departs Tripoli *[Tripoli Radio]* 35

Morocco

Media Term Madrid Conference 'Starting Point' *[MAP]* 35
PLO's 'Arafat Confers With King Hassan II *[MAP]* 36
Attends Banquet *[Rabat Radio]* 36
Departs 31 Oct *[Rabat Radio]* 36

Sudan

Garang Fires SPLA's London Spokesman *[London International]* 36
Al-Bashir Comments Upon Return From Libya *[Omdurman Radio]* 37
Projects Promote Integration With Libya *[SUNA]* 37
Pact on Religious Cooperation Signed With Iraq *[SUNA]* 37

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Kingdom Denies Funding Anti-Palestinian Groups *[SPA]* 38
King Supports Madrid Talks, Palestinian Cause *[Riyadh Radio]* 38
Prince 'Abdallah Contacts al-Asad, Mubarak *[SPA]* 38
France's Dumas Conveys Mitterrand Message to King *[SPA]* 38
Comments on Talks With King *[SPA]* 38
King Receives Speaker of Kuwait National Council *[Riyadh Radio]* 39
Speaks on Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait *[SPA]* 39
Moroccan Prime Minister Arrives in Jeddah *[Riyadh Radio]* 41
Received by King Fahd *[SPA]* 41
Press Comments on Israel's Stand at Conference 41
Deplores Shamir's Speech *[SPA]* 41
Regrets Israel's 'Irrational Approach' *[SPA]* 41

Yemen

President Receives French Ministers Dumas, Lang *[Sanaa Radio]* 42
Agreement Signed *[Sanaa Radio]* 43

IRAQ

Saddam Receives 'Arafat Message on Palestine *[INA]* 44
Israeli Claim on Iraq's Nuclear Program Refuted *[INA]* 44
Syria's Multilateral Talks Rejection 'Propaganda' *[Baghdad VOP]* 44
Grave for Soldiers 'Buried Alive' Said Discovered *[Baghdad Radio]* 45
Minister Answers U.S. Paper on Food Distribution *[INA]* 45
Further on Minister's Statement *[Baghdad Radio]* 45
Saddam Reportedly Cuts Off Fuel Supplies to Kurds *[Hamburg DPA]* 45

ISRAEL

Shamir Briefs Knesset Committee on Madrid Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Says 'Aspects of U.S. Policy' 'Harm Us' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Calls Meeting With Egypt 'Stormy' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Shamir Views Proceedings of Madrid Talks *[Jerusalem TV]* 47
Negotiations on Bilateral Talks Venue Continue 47
'Intensive Contacts' With U.S. *[Jerusalem TV]* 47
Rubinstein on Venue, Palestinian Immunity *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 48
'Sources' on Options, Preconditions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Madrid Talks Delegation Returns; Members Comment *[Jerusalem Radio]* 49
Commander—'Major Intelligence Effort' on Iraq *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
Golan Heights Settlement Ceremony Held 4 Nov *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
Ne'eman Said To Divert Funds for Settlements *[DAVAR 4 Nov]* 50
Over 200 Mobile Homes Transferred to Settlements *[HADASHOT 3 Nov]* 50
IDF Cuts Presence in Southern Lebanon *[HA'ARETZ 5 Nov]* 51
Arrow Missile's Third Test Launch 'Failed' *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 3 Nov]* 51
Commentary Calls for Arrow Project's Reassessment *[HA'ARETZ 31 Oct]* 51

JORDAN

Muslim Brotherhood Rejects Peace Conference *[JORDAN TIMES 31 Oct]* 53
Holds Rally To Criticize Talks *[AL-DUSTUR 2 Nov]* 54
Prince Hasan Praises Palestinian Role in Madrid *[JORDAN TIMES 4 Nov]* 54
Editorial on Motives of Israeli Actions in Lebanon *[AL-RA'Y 3 Nov]* 54
'Encouraging Signs' Seen in Bilateral Talks *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 4 Nov]* 54
Paper on Upcoming Contacts for Arab Coordination *[AL-RA'Y 5 Nov]* 55
Paper Urges U.S., USSR To Intervene in Talks *[AL-DUSTUR 5 Nov]* 55
Column Questions Saudi Prince's Presence at Talks *[AL-RA'Y 5 Nov]* 56

LEBANON

Al-Hirawi Visits Latakia, Meets With al-Asad *[Beirut Radio]* 57
Meeting Focused on U.S. 'Message' *[VOM]* 57
United Stand With Syria Confirmed *[Beirut Radio]* 57
Fadlallah Affirms Syrian-Iranian 'Strategic' Ties *[VOM]* 57
Israeli Warns of Operations If Attacks Continue *[VOL]* 57
Hizballah Positions in al-Biqa' Shelled 4 Nov *[RFL]* 58
Shells Land Near Army Barracks in South *[VOL]* 58
'Arafat Said To Dismiss Fatah Lebanese Fighters *[RFL]* 58
Knowledgeable Source: Waite Could Be Freed Soon *[AL-SHIRA' 4 Nov]* 58

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Former King Shah Attacked in Rome, Wounded *[Kabul Radio]* 59
Rebel Leader Deplores Attack *[AFP]* 59
Rebel Group Blames U.S., USSR *[AFP]* 59
Rebel Leader Cites Conditions for Soviet Talks *[AFP]* 60
Observer Sees 'Positive Changes' Toward Peace *[BAKHTAR]* 60
Russian Official Sends Message to Senate Speaker *[BAKHTAR]* 60
Soviet Delegation Continues Talks 2 Nov 61
Meets Prime Minister Khaleqyar *[BAKHTAR]* 61
Holds Talks With Najibollah *[BAKHTAR]* 61
Signs Economic, Trade Protocol *[BAKHTAR]* 62
New Fuel Distribution System To Begin 7 Nov *[BAKHTAR]* 62
Authorities Distribute Free Food to Army Officers *[Kabul Radio]* 62

Bangladesh

Zia Supports U.S. Efforts for Democracy, Peace *[Dhaka Radio]* 62
Prime Minister Meets Visiting British Minister *[AFP]* 63
Zia-Hasina 'Feud,' Economic Situation Viewed *[AFP]* 63

India

Rao, Others Speak at Integration Council Meeting *[Delhi Radio]* 64
Resolution for Peace Adopted *[Delhi Radio]* 64
Further on Discussions *[Delhi Radio]* 65
BJP President on Ayodhya Issue *[Delhi Radio]* 65
Uttar Pradesh Acquires Land *[Delhi Radio]* 65
Muslim Chief Criticizes Acquisition *[Delhi Radio]* 66
State Protests Pakistani Statement on Minorities *[Delhi Radio]* 66
Pakistani Aid to Rebels 'of Serious Concern' *[Delhi Radio]* 66
Minister Says Sovereignty Not Compromised for Loan *[Delhi Radio]* 66
West Bengal on Corridor Transfer to Bangladesh *[Delhi Radio]* 66
Party Says State Not Serious About Regional Talks *[Delhi Radio]* 66
State Minister Departs for Colombo Regional Talks *[Delhi Radio]* 66
Trishul Missile Tested for Multiple Uses *[Delhi Radio]* 66
Government Launches 'Major' Arms Export Drive *[AFP]* 67
Foreign Exchange Reserves Increase in Past 4 Months *[Delhi Radio]* 67

Iran

Mohtashemi Addresses Second Tehran Rally *[IRNA]* 67
More on Vice President's 4 Nov News Conference *[Tehran TV]* 68
Foreign Ministry Statement on Israeli Attacks *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Velayati Sees Madrid Talks Reward for 'Treason' *[IRNA]* 69
Larijani: U.S. Will Lose Israel, Muslim World *[IRNA]* 69
Madrid Conference 'Day of Shame, Grief' *[IRNA]* 70

Commentary on 'Concessions' to U.S., Israel *[Tehran Radio]* 70
Madrid Summit 'Most Unsuitable' for Arab Position *[IRNA]* 71
Papers Cast Doubts on Goodwill of Madrid Talks *[IRNA]* 72
Commentary Views Arab Opposition to Madrid Talks *[Tehran International]* 72
Official Calls Madrid Talks 'Degrading' *[Tehran Radio]* 73
Mohajerani Discusses Islamic Nuclear Programs *[ABRAR 23 Oct]* 73
U.S. Daily Report on Nuclear Arms Sale Rejected *[IRNA]* 76
Paper Cited on Nuclear Weapons Proliferation *[IRNA]* 76
Fadlallah: U.S. 'Main Hurdle' to Hostage Release *[TEHRAN TIMES 27 Oct]* 77
Israeli UN Envoy Protests Tehran Conference *[Tehran Radio]* 78
Pakistan Support for Tehran Conference Praised *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 22 Oct]* 78
Pakistani Ground Forces Commander Arrives 2 Nov *[Tehran Radio]* 79
Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran Radio]* 79
Further on Visit of PRC President Yang Shangkun 79
PRC Ambassador Previews Visit *[Tehran TV]* 79
PRC Role in Reconstruction *[Tehran TV]* 79
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Praises Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 80
Military Cooperation With PRC *[Tehran TV]* 80
Leaves Tehran; Praises Relations *[Tehran Radio]* 80
Concludes Visit, Departs *[IRNA]* 80
ABRAR Warns of 'Fresh U.S. Schemes' *[IRNA]* 81
Va'ezi on Resolution of Dispute With France *[IRNA]* 81
Release of American Accused of Spying Cited *[KEYHAN HAVA'I 16 Oct]* 81
Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons *[Tehran Radio]* 82
Jannati Accuses Madrid Participants of Treachery *[Tehran TV]* 83

Nepal & Bhutan

'Unprecedented Challenge' to King From Hardliners *[AFP]* 84
King Misses Summit Due to Unrest *[AFP]* 85
Prime Minister Delays Departure *[AFP]* 85

Pakistan

China To Supply Fuel for Newly Designed Reactor *[Islamabad Radio]* 86
Police Raid Jamiyat-e Eslami Office, Arrest 8 *[AFP]* 86
Minister Says Opium Production Increasing *[AFP]* 86
Minister Meets U.S. Ambassador *[Islamabad Radio]* 87
Bangladeshi Minister, Ishaq Khan Discuss Ties *[Islamabad Radio]* 87
Further on Talks *[Islamabad Radio]* 87
Saudi King Establishes Afghan Reconstruction Fund *[AFP]* 87
Iran To Help Set Up Oil Refinery *[Islamabad Radio]* 88
Spokesman on Possible Purchase of French Aircraft *[AFP]* 88

Sri Lanka

Opposition Parties in Speaker No-Confidence Motion *[Delhi Radio]* 88
LTTE Rules Out Talks With Government *[Delhi Radio]* 88
Report on Mosad Ties Submitted to Premadasa *[Colombo International]* 88

Madrid Talks

Syrian Foreign Minister Briefs Press

JN0411214591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Madrid—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has described the international family's interest in the Middle East as positive and said it will very strongly affect the peace process in the region. At a news conference in the Spanish capital this afternoon, before leaving for Damascus and after leading the Syrian delegation to the peace conference on the Middle East, he said: Syria's position is based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

Al-Shar' expressed hope that the bilateral negotiations would be held in public because Syria has nothing to conceal. Al-Shar' also asserted that when real peace is achieved and Israel withdraws from the occupied Arab territories, security will be certainly achieved in the region.

The foreign minister pointed out that the bilateral negotiations held between the Syrian and Israeli delegations was a waste of time because Israel refused to discuss the contents of Security Council Resolution 242 and 338, which stipulate the inadmissibility of annexing others' territories by war. Al-Shar' held Israel responsible for discontinuing discussions on the issue of peace in the region, as it refused to continue to discuss it in Madrid.

The foreign minister then informed journalists that Syria will positively study every proposal by the sponsors of the conference on the Middle East—the United States and the Soviet Union—regarding the venue for the bilateral negotiations.

More on News Conference

JN0511070891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Madrid—Prior to his and his delegation's departure from Madrid yesterday afternoon, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' held a news conference attended by a large crowd of journalists and correspondents from international and Arab television networks and news agencies accredited in Madrid to cover the peace conference.

At the outset of the news conference, al-Shar' expressed his thanks, appreciation, and gratitude to the Spanish Government and the Spanish people for the good organization of the peace conference and also for the immense hospitality accorded to the Syrian delegation. Likewise, he thanked the conference cosponsors, the United States and the USSR, for cochairing the peace conference. He also thanked all those who helped render this conference a success, saying: We came to Madrid in good faith and with an unmistakably clear desire to achieve just peace. This is because we are aware of the importance the entire world, and not only peoples of the region, attaches to the attainment of a comprehensive, just, and true peace in this turbulent region. Now, we are leaving Madrid without achieving tangible results, thanks to Israel's intransigence and its refusal to commit itself to meeting the necessary requirements for achieving peace in the region.

Al-Shar' added: I was apprised of how the talks held by the Syrian negotiating delegation headed by Muwaffaq al-'Allaf proceeded. These talks confirmed that the Israeli delegation spoke of everything except the territories Israel occupied and has been occupying for the past 24 years. They insisted on their intransigence and reiterated their previous positions. They claimed that territory has nothing to do with peace. It is obvious that they have instructions from their government to make it clear that they have not come in response to President George Bush's initiative, as all the Arab parties that came to Madrid did. All Arab parties came to Madrid on this basis, namely, Resolutions 242 and 338, and the land-for-peace principle. However, only the Israeli delegation did not come to Madrid on this basis.

Faruq al-Shar' went on to say: We are sure that each and every person who wants to achieve peace in our region cannot conceive of achieving peace without Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Hence, the basic equation is clear, namely, land and peace; that is, land for peace. Our delegation spoke of this equation. As for the Israeli delegation, it dropped land from the equation and dwelled on the Israeli concept of peace.

Al-Shar' noted: I know that your hopes have been frustrated. However, it is a reality that the world has to face. He affirmed that we, in Syria, will maintain our position to achieve the true and comprehensive peace which we came here to achieve, peace based on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 242, which provides for the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force.

In reply to a question on Israel's continued building of settlements and the impact of this on the peace process, the foreign minister said: The building of settlements is an illegal act that contravenes any desire to achieve peace. The same goes for the imposition of Israeli laws and legislation on the occupied Syrian Golan. He added: These acts are null and void. Similarly, they do not have any legal validity in terms of international law. Moreover, these things belie the Israelis' claims about peace, especially since there can be no talk of peace as long as settlement-building in the occupied Arab territories continues. The foreign minister went on to say: I believe that these Israeli practices cannot deceive public opinion.

In reply to a question on how successful the peace conference was, al-Shar' said: We are sincere in our quest to achieve peace. We came here for this purpose. It must be said, however, that our delegation felt during the talks that the Israeli side did its utmost to waste time and frustrate the hopes of the whole world.

On the positive aspects of the conference, al-Shar' said: The positive aspect, in our opinion, lies in this importance the world attaches to the achievement of peace in our region. This is important. Besides, it can largely contribute toward the success of the peace process. This is especially true since this by itself constitutes a driving force which should not be halted.

Faruq al-Shar' underscored the importance of the role that could be played by the international media in this regard, adding: This role is of immense importance. Through an insightful narration of realities and facts, the international media can make the entire world community support right, implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and honor the land-for-peace principle.

When asked about what comes next after yesterday's talks, the foreign minister said: We will continue our efforts to achieve peace. We attach special importance to the role the cosponsors of the conference can play in making proposals and suggesting alternatives. It is to be recalled that we came to Madrid with the understanding that the peace conference deliberations will continue there. There was not any separation between the peace conference and the ensuing talks. This is not only our conception. It is the conception of all Arab sides, as well as the conception of the conference cosponsors.

In response to another question on the next step, al-Shar' said: We are awaiting the proposals and conceptions of the cosponsors of the conference. We will consider them seriously in the hope that the peace process will be resumed.

When asked about reports that the Syrian position was hard-line, whereas the positions of other Arab parties were lenient, al-Shar' said: The Syrian position is fair, realistic, and in line with UN resolutions. It is a position that wants to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the context of international legitimacy and the peace conference resolutions.

Al-Shar' wondered: Is it not strange then for the Syrian position to be termed hard-line when all that we seek is the implementation of the two UN resolutions which the entire world, including the cosponsors of the conference, want to see implemented? We have nothing to hide from our people, from you, or from the world community.

Regarding the possibility of achieving peace in the future, Faruq al-Shar' said: As long as Israel wants to talk of only one part of the land and peace equation, there will be no peace. This is not only our attitude. It is also the attitude of the cosponsors of the conference. Hence, as long as the Israelis exclude land, there will be no way to achieve peace. He added: We are awaiting proposals by the cosponsors of the conference to find a way out of this stalemate.

In reply to a question on Arab coordination, Faruq al-Shar' said: Coordination among the Arab parties and the unification of the Arab stand would help advance the peace process and realize the cooperation required to achieve a just and durable peace. He added: We are somewhat satisfied with the coordination that has taken place among Arab parties. We have managed to thwart Israeli attempts to divide Arab delegations. The Syrian efforts managed to have the talks held at a single site instead of them being held at different places that are far away from one another.

When asked about confidence-building measures between the Arabs and the Israelis, the foreign minister said: The best confidence-building measure is for the Israelis to subscribe to the land-for-peace principle, and for Israel to halt settlement building and commit itself to implementing UN resolutions.

The foreign minister, when asked to comment on the head of the Israeli negotiating delegation's statement that peace has nothing to do with territory, said: This means that Israel does not want to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. Consequently, it does not desire to achieve the peace aspired for by peoples of the region and the entire world.

Concluding his news conference, al-Shar' said: The Israeli air raids launched on more than 100 Lebanese villages with the advent of the peace conference is tangible proof of the lack of desire on Israel's part to achieve peace.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the delegation accompanying him returned to Damascus yesterday evening after participating in the work of the Madrid peace conference. He was seen off at Madrid International Airport by Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister Fernandez-Ordonez, Syrian Ambassador to Madrid Zuhayr 'Aqqad, and embassy personnel.

Syrian Team Chief on Talks With Israelis

JN0411130291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Madrid talks, by unidentified reporter from Amman on 4 November—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Would you give us more details about the session of talks the Syrian delegation held with the Israeli delegation? And what are the topics on which the Syrian delegation concentrated during last night's session?

[Al-'Allaf] The Syrian delegation, of course, tried to see if there is any serious and earnest desire on the part of the Israeli delegation to implement the resolutions on which the peace process and conference were based. The Syrian delegation also tried to see if Israel is ready to withdraw from the occupied Arab territory and to express its claims that it really wants peace through commitment to undertake what Resolutions 242 and 338 require from it.

All the Israeli answers, regrettably, evaded any such commitment. Israel tried to demand things that are not related at all to these two resolutions or to the bases of the peace process. In particular it refused to implement the principle of land for peace or to make a commitment to withdraw from Arab territory.

[Reporter] Mr. Muwaffaq, when will the Syrian-Israeli negotiations resume?

[Al-'Allaf] There is no date to resume any negotiations. The matter is in the hands of the cosponsors of the conference. Syria proceeds from the fact that the peace process is an integrated one, that Israeli withdrawal should take place on all fronts, and that Israeli withdrawal should be complete, not as Israel is trying to do. Israel is trying to say that it implemented the required withdrawals in the peace agreement it concluded with Egypt more than 10 years ago. It claims that the Arabs should give it peace and live with it in peace in exchange for peace, in exchange for nothing.

The Arab position, however, is holding fast; it reiterates that if Israel seeks peace it should abandon the land and restore all the Palestinian rights to the Palestinian people.

[Reporter] Thank You, Mr. Muwaffaq.

Jordanian, Palestinian Delegates Assess Talks

'Abd-al-Shafi on Priorities

JN0411203591 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Interview via satellite with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, chairman of the Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace conference, and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, in Madrid, by 'Adnan al-Zu'bi in Amman on 4 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Zu'bi] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, yesterday you had reservations about certain priorities. Would you care to elaborate on this point?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We had reservations about self-rule as an item on the agenda. We are not against joining talks concerning self-rule, but we see it as a transition toward national independence and an independent Palestinian state. Right from the start, I sought to point out our priorities at the negotiating table, since we do not want anyone to get the impression that we will settle for self-rule as an end in itself. In this regard, we want a halt to settlement activity as a signal that self-rule will be a step on the road toward national independence. [passage omitted]

[Al-Zu'bi] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, have the positions of the United States and Soviet Union met your expectations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The Americans and Soviets, I think, are serious in their efforts to bring peace to the region. I feel the United States is now adopting a more balanced posture vis-a-vis the Palestinian-Israeli dispute. I feel there is seriousness in pursuing the peace process. It remains to be seen what the U.S.- USSR position will be if Israel maintains its intransigent posture on settlements and Israeli withdrawal. We are waiting to see how things will turn out in the coming stages.

[Al-Zu'bi] Dr. al-Majali, surprisingly, the representative of the European Community did not limit himself to a protocol role. We saw him commenting and talking at the conclusion of the opening sessions. How do you view the European role?

[Al-Majali] I was extremely pleased with the participation of the European nations at the conference, and I was struck by the long EC speech. I got the impression they are serious and mean what they say, and that they are willing to help make the conference a success and to promote real peace, since they are truly interested. [passage omitted]

[Al-Zu'bi] Dr. al-Majali, let us assume the bilateral negotiations produce the desired results, and then multilateral talks begin to discuss such areas as armaments, the environment, and economic development. Where do you stand on these points?

[Al-Majali] You seem to think that once bilateral talks end, the multilateral talks will begin. In actual fact, this is not the case. The bilateral and multilateral talks will be almost simultaneous. That is to say that the bilateral talks may restart in two weeks and the multilateral or regional talks may start in three weeks. The success of one may extend to the other. Let us wait and see how things develop. Things are not so clearly defined as of yet. [passage omitted]

Additional Comments

JN0411145591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, in Madrid by unidentified reporter in Amman on 4 November—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, you met with the Israelis yesterday and held two rounds of negotiations. What were the main topics that the Palestinians emphasized during yesterday's meetings? Would you give us more detail about these topics?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, discussions at the two rounds were confined to the venue of bilateral negotiations and procedural matters in preparation for discussing an agenda for the next meetings. As for the venue, the opinion of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was to stay in Madrid. The Israelis rejected this, however. We did not agree on the venue. The Israelis wanted to consult with their government. Therefore, no agreement has been reached on the venue. The subject will remain open, and we will see.

[Reporter] It is now being proposed that the next bilateral talks be held in Washington as a compromise between the Arab and Israeli sides. How do you view such a proposal?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact, we have not been informed that Washington is the proposed venue. We would have preferred Europe, for example. Until such a proposal is offered, however, we will continue consultations and will decide accordingly.

[Reporter] In view of the first phase of the Madrid conference and the start of bilateral talks, can you give us a general assessment?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact, as you know, in the opening speech I believe we clearly defined the general framework of our stand on the negotiating process. The Israelis laid down the framework of their position. Evidently, the Israelis maintain the same declared intransigent stand. This will not prevent us from engaging in bilateral negotiations. Of course, we are not negotiating in isolation from other parties, particularly the cosponsors of the conference—the United States and the Soviet Union—as well as the European states, which displayed extreme interest in this conference. As for us, we must explain and highlight the injustice being done to the Palestian people. We also must explain that the Palestinian position in this conference seeks a just peace based on the law, UN resolutions, and human rights principles. In contrast, the Israeli position is based on none of this. Rather, it is considered a violation of all these values, solely relying on sheer force. In my view, this is extremely important. Thus, we can place international powers, particularly the United States, as well as Europe and the entire world, to a test: Are they sincere in their claims about supporting human rights, international law, and the UN resolutions? This is the principled stand that we will adopt. We will try to utilize every available means. We are now generally focusing on people, because people generally are unaware of the truth. If they know the truth, there will be a change.

[Reporter] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, would you like to send a message to the kinsfolk in the occupied territories, who are following the developments of Madrid peace conference?

['Abd-al-Shafi] My message to our kinsfolk in the occupied territories is: Be sure that we have come to this conference with a strong and profound sense of our ability to raise our issue in all its aspects with absolute clarity before world public opinion. We will firmly and vigorously demand that our national aspirations for independence, self-determination, and the right of refugees to return be met as stipulated by UN resolutions. We appeal to citizens to exercise patience and perseverance and keenly follow all developments. We always are following with profound interest the concerns of our brethren in the popular forces in the occupied territories, because this gives us relief and encourages us to go ahead.

[Reporter] Thank you, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Jordanian Asserts Validity of 242

JN0411220591 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Excerpts] The joint Jordanian-Palestinian and Lebanese bilateral talks with Israel were described as taking place in a good atmosphere yesterday. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian negotiating team today reemphasized the provisions of Security Council Resolution 242.

[Begin Al-Majali recording] I would like to say that we are satisfied with the events of the last week, and hope that they constitute the beginning of the road toward a comprehensive and just peace based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of land for peace. We are gratified that the Palestinian identity has finally received the recognition it deserves. This is in line with our long-standing commitment to supporting the Palestinian people in their legitimate quest for self-determination in their national and ancestral home in Palestine.

This positive development will enable us to give due regard to the Jordanian agenda in the negotiations, while at the same time fully supporting the Palestinian team and their own agenda. We also hope this will lay to rest finally the Israeli assertion that Jordan is Palestine.

I would also like to respond to the exotic interpretation of Resolution 242, which we—and you—heard yesterday. The only legal interpretation of 242 is that it applies to all the territories occupied, not one part of it. I need not remind you of the principle, enshrined in the UN Charter, regarding the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. This principle was clearly stated in Resolution 242, but selectively omitted yesterday by the Israeli spokesman. All drafters of 242 have agreed that it applies to all fronts, and not only to the Egyptian front, as he claimed. Successive Israeli governments have not disputed the applicability of 242 to all fronts.

The essence of the problem is the question of Palestine, and not only the Egyptian Sinai, which was occupied as a result of the Palestinian problem. The secure borders in 242 apply to all countries of the region, not just Israel. Events have shown that it is the Arabs that are in need of security, and that security does not come from territorial acquisitions. [end recording]

'Ashrawi on Palestinian-Israeli Talks

JN0411151091 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in Madrid, by 'Ali Hamati in Amman on 4 November—recorded]

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, good morning. This is Radio Jordan. We would like you to comment on the outcome of yesterday's sessions between the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the Israeli delegation, if you do not mind?

['Ashrawi] Well, in terms of concrete achievements, the outcome is not yet conclusive because there was no agreement on the venue and the time. It was agreed that matters have to proceed quickly as soon as possible, and the venue will be agreed upon later. Or if not, if in a case of a deadlock, then the cosponsors will have to step in and find an alternative that would be acceptable to both sides.

[Hamati] Were do you expect the next session to be held? Do you have any preferences?

['Ashrawi] Well, we've always maintained that our preferences for a neutral country that would not have any adverse pressure or effect on the negotiations [sentence as heard]. And we preferred it to be in Europe. However, we are willing to consider any alternatives that would fit the same specifications.

[Hamati] What about the Washington alternative? We heard that the United States had offered Washington to be the next venue of the bilateral talks?

['Ashrawi] Well, the Washington alternative may be acceptable within certain conditions, provided we do not face visa questions, visa problems, and provided we are not subjected to all sorts of Israel lobby group pressures and congressional pressures.

[Hamati] The question remains once this venue issue is solved, what would be the topics that would be discussed with the Israeli delegation once you meet again?

['Ashrawi] Well, there are many different possible alternatives. First, we feel that the issue of the settlements and Israeli practices will have to be discussed as a prenegotiations condition. But in terms of the agenda for negations, it can move either from positions of principle and recognition of rights to concrete steps for the transfer of authority from the Israeli military occupation to the Palestinians. And we maintain that the transfer of authority will have to include control over the land and the resources—the water—as well as on the legislative authority, not just the executive authority.

[Hamati] I see. What about the self-rule issue? We heard that it should start a year from now?

['Ashrawi] Yes, this is in the terms of the agreement to attend the conference; that we will be discussing transitional phases of self-government, not as an end, not as a permanent status, but as a means of achieving an agreed-upon end. And as far as we are concerned, the objective is independent statehood. And this type of self-governing transitional arrangement would last no more than three to five years, given that the permanent status negotiations will start at the beginning of the third year. We expect that these transitional arrangements will have to be interconnected within a specified timeframe, and not prejudicial to the final outcome. Rather, they should prepare for sovereignty and independence.

[Hamati] Dr. 'Ashrawi, would you like to describe the atmosphere that prevailed between the Palestinian delegation and the Israeli delegation, because they have faced each other for the first time?

['Ashrawi] Well, actually that is not true. We face each other all time, as occupiers and occupied. They have no secrets to hide from us. As we said in our speech, we know them at their worst and we know them at their best, because the occupier cannot hide any secrets from the occupied. But it is the first time we face each other across the table as equals. And I think the atmosphere was extremely serious and businesslike. And it was an atmosphere that said we want to get down to business rather than we want to indulge in games. And we refused any attempts at domination, or using undue influence. And I think it was recognized as such.

[Hamati] I see. Can we say that you are optimistic?

['Ashrawi] Well, I can say that we are realistic, and we are serious, and we are going to do whatever is possible to achieve our rights. We are going to pursue this process, because we consider this part of the overall Palestinian struggle. This is part of the political struggle. And any peace agreement will have to ensure the national rights of the Palestinian people. So I would say if you want to measure optimism by our determination, we are extremely determined. And we are not going to sell short any of our people's rights. Now if you are asking if we have a guaranteed outcome, we do not have a guaranteed outcome, beyond this revolution of authority as the transitional phase. But we are going to work very hard. And I am sure with the determination and the faith in the rightness of our cause, that we are going to prevail in terms of our own independence and state on the soil of Palestine.

[Hamati] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, we thank you very much and wish you all the best, all of you.

['Ashrawi] Thank you; appreciate your calling me.

On Coordination Efforts

NC0411125391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1112 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Paris, 4 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference, has stated that the Palestinians did not enter the negotiations in order to interpret UN resolutions. She noted that coordination is continuing with Palestinians opposed to the Madrid conference.

In an interview with the Paris radio station al-Sharq [The East] broadcast today, 'Ashrawi said every country has a separate position because they are countries that enjoy sovereignty. She noted, however, that a united and

coordinated Arab position exists in the context of solidarity, and no Arab country will adopt any separate stands. She declared: On this basis, I do not expect there to be any stumbling which will adversely affect the other countries, because we are continuous[ly] ..oordinating our stands. The Arabs are agreed that the negotiators will coordinate their positions.

In this connection, 'Ashrawi emphasized unity on the cause, stance, and people.

Asked if the Palestinians will stop negotiating if the Syrians do so, 'Ashrawi answered: We will confront every issue when it arises. The Syrians are in constant contact with us and we are coordinating with them.

Asked about Israel's interpretation of Resolutions 242 and 338, she answered: We have said from the beginning that we did not enter this process with the aim of interpreting UN resolutions, but with the aim of implementing them. Resolution 242 means Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories. It can have no other interpretation. The preamble to this resolution states that it is inadmissible to seize territory by force. Therefore, implementing the clauses of Resolution 242 means Israel's withdrawal from these territories.

She added that no resolution can be interpreted without recourse to the principle on which it was based; consequently, every interpretation must be made within the principle in question and on the basis of the background which gave rise to this principle. She noted that the principle is the inadmissibility of seizing territory by force, and this means complete withdrawal.

Hanan 'Ashrawi said Israel has many different interpretations which are no more than desperate attempts it is trying to impose on us. She continued: "We depend, however, on international legitimacy and on the international support for the Palestinian issue, which essentially is a just cause based on the will of peoples, on the will of the international community, and on international law.

Responding to a question about the several self-government formulas to which James Baker referred and what formula the Palestinians will accept, she said all this is part of the transitional steps which lead to an independent state. She added: "For this reason, all the steps must be linked and must be implemented within a specific timetable. They must not affect the result which we are seeking, that is, an independent Palestinian state."

'Ashrawi added: The steps we are emphasizing are control over territory, water, and citizens with regard to nationality, identity, movement, and matters connected with these issues. We also insist on having legislative and judicial powers. This means that judicial and legislative matters must come under Palestinian authority. It is possible to acquire these powers gradually according to the circumstances which arise as a result of the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Jordanian Spokesman on Bilateral Talks

JN0411134391 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, spokesman of the Jordanian side to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference in Madrid on 4 November by 'Ali Hamati in the studio in Amman—recorded]

[Text] [Hamati] Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, good morning.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Good morning.

[Hamati] This is 'Ali Hamati from Radio Jordan. Can you tell us or give us an idea about the outcome of yesterday's bilateral talks between the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the Israeli delegation in both sessions, the first and the second?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Yesterday, both delegations met for two sessions, as you said yesterday. Procedural matters were discussed, really; no matters of substance were discussed in the meeting, particularly the place, the venue in which the talks will continue. And both sides presented their points of view, but no agreement has been reached yet. They both agreed to keep consultations going. The meetings were conducted in a good and businesslike manner and, like I said, while there was no deadlock, there was no agreement either. But we do expect that the venue will be announced soon, probably today.

[Hamati] Where would you expect it to be?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] We really don't know yet. We expect the ('cosponsers) to announce it, but there are many rumors that it might be in Washington.

[Hamati] In Washington. Do you think there is any reason for that, any specific reason?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Well, this is, may be, a compromise that the Americans will come up with. But the Israelis wanted it to be in the area, but we really rejected that proposition. And while we would have liked to stay in Madrid here, so Washington might be a compromise that the Americans will come up with.

[Hamati] Well, some other rumors don't see it as a compromise as much as they see it a way for Washington to prohibit the existence of some Palestinian figures being around the Palestinian delegation. Do you have any comment about that?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] We really don't see it this way. I've seen the Palestinians themselves have announced that they would accept Washington as a venue. Washington has, of course, its positive and negative, but it might be, it might place some moral weight on the United States to deliver on its promises, and so it might not be a bad place if it is chosen.

[Hamati] If the first and second sessions spoke about the venue, once the venue is solved, what do you expect to discuss with the Israelis in your next session?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Well, the next session would really concentrate on substance. As you know, the terms of reference of the conference had called for two separate tracks: a Palestinian-Israeli track and an Arab-Israeli track or, in our case, a Jordanian-Israeli track. In the Palestinian-Israeli track, negotiations will concentrate on the interim arrangement for self-rule, for a transitional period of self-rule to begin within one year. And this is what the Palestinian side of the delegation will concentrate on. As for the Jordanian side, there are several issues of contention with the Israelis, including some Jordanian occupied land, including the issues of refugees, the issue of water, and other bilateral issues.

[Hamati] I see. Dr. al-Mu'ashshir, can you give us an idea about what was the atmosphere like when you first, I mean our delegation first sat face to face with the Israelis? Were they tense? I mean can you give us an idea about the atmosphere?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] No, they were not tense, really. They went in a businesslike atmosphere and there was no tension at all in the meeting, and I thought that they went quite well.

[Hamati] As for the Syrian and Lebanese delegations, do you have any idea what's going on?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] The Lebanese delegation met with the Israeli delegation as seven o'clock yesterday night, followed by a meeting with the Syrians at 10 o'clock. So, all delegations have met bilaterally with the Israelis yesterday.

[Hamati] From the news reports we hear that both the Israelis and the Syrians say that the bilateral talks in their first and second session, too, were not satisfactory. What do they expect from those sessions in order to make it satisfactory?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] The Syrians want to go directly and talk about substance rather than procedural issues. And so there was (?quite a tension) yesterday concerning that point. We feel comfortable now that once these bilateral talks have started, that once the venue is decided, we can move directly and talk about matters of substance.

[Hamati] I see. Dr. al-Mu'ashshir, we thank you very much and we wish you all the best.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Thank you.

[Hamati] God bless you all. Good-bye.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Thank you.

On Possible Resumption

JN0411091991 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, official spokesman of the Jordanian side to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, has stated that bilateral talks between the joint delegation and the Israeli delegation in Madrid have been concluded and there will be no other round of these talks, which it is hoped, will resume within about 10 days.

In a telephone interview with the Amman radio news desk, he said the venue of next bilateral talks may be announced today.

On Washington as Preferred Venue

JN0411093391 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0900 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The spokesman of the Jordanian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference said that prospects of holding the bilateral talks with the Israelis in Washington are more likely.

Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, speaking to Radio Jordan this morning, said the atmosphere that prevailed during the bilateral sessions with the Israelis yesterday was a businesslike atmosphere where no tensions of any sort were monitored. Dr. al-Mu'ashshir added that once the venue of the future talks is solved, the Palestinian side of the delegation will tackle the issue of the return of Palestinian refugees to their homeland and the Palestinian self-rule, which is expected to begin a year from now. The Jordanian side of the delegation will also tackle the refugees' issues, in addtion to border and water issues.

Bethlehem's Frayj Favors Washington

NC0511083491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Madrid, 4 Nov (MENA)—Ilyas Frayj, member of the official Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has stated that he favors Washington as the venue for the second round of peace talks with Israel, adding that the U.S. capital is the best place for the bilateral negotiations between the Arab sides and Israel.

In a statement to MENA, Frayj said that during the bilateral talks with Israel yesterday, the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation asked that Madrid remain as the venue for the talks, but the Israelis demanded that the talks be moved to the Middle East, thus hindering an agreement on this subject.

Frayj praised the efforts made by U.S. President George Bush and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to convene the peace conference in Madrid, saying that without these efforts, the conference would not have been convened.

Frayj, mayor of the West Bank town of Bethlehem, said that the Madrid conference confirmed the legitimacy of the Palestinians as a people who have political rights. The head of the Palestinian delegation was given equal time to deliver his speech, like the other heads of delegations. This, in Frayj's view, was a brilliant and historic political achievement.

Frayj stressed that the Palestinian delegation came to Madrid with a sincere intention to achieve peace with the Israeli Government and people. He said we and Israel share the (?land). The Jewish people have the right to live in peace and freedom and the Palestinian people also have the right to live in peace and freedom.

Frayj explained that Security Council Resolution 242 applies to all occupied territory without exception. The Palestinian delegation accepts this resolution, which represents international legitimacy. If differences arise with the Israeli side over the interpretation of this resolution, the Security Council should convene and give a clear and frank interpretation of this resolution, Frayj said.

Next Talks 'Strenuous and Lengthy'

JN0511080091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Interview with Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir, member of the Palestinian side to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference, by radio correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi, carried within "With the Events" program—date not given, recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Good evening, Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir.

[Al-'Akir] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] How do you think the negotiations with the Israeli side will proceed, against the background of yesterday's two sessions?

[Al-'Akir] I expect we will resume the discussions in two to three weeks at the earliest. In light of yesterday's soundings, I expect they will be strenuous, and even lengthy negotiations. If I understand your question correctly, the talks will be held on an Israeli-Palestinian level.

[Mu'addi] How do you evaluate the outcome of the two sessions with the Israseli side yesterday, and has any headway been made?

[Al-'Akir] The only progress that has been made is the fact that the meeting took place at all. The Palestinian side set out its expectations from the conference in our opening speech, which also put forth our vision of a settlement in accordance with the invitation extended to us by the conference's cosponsors. After yesterday's meetings with the Israeli side, I can say that, aside from the venue and time frame for the next sessions, nothing was discussed. The failure to agree on a venue precluded agreement on the modalities, including the frequency of the sessions. We could not go into such details since we failed to agree on the venue, and the Israeli side has certain considerations, as has the Palestinian side. We began in Madrid and what you can call a positive Madrid spirit has developed. For their own considerations, to which we incidentally do not subscribe, the Israelis would like the coming sessions to be convened in the Middle East. We will go back to the cosponsors. The venue for the coming talks will be determined in light of contacts with them.

[Mu'addi] Have any quarters sought to put pressure on the Palestinian side, in the wake of your talks with the Israelis?

[Al-'Akir] We have not come under any kind of pressure from any quarter. Would you expect us to accept any pressure? The decisionmaking of the Palestinian side proceeds from an independent national Palestinian standpoint. No party whatsoever can put pressure on the Palestinian side.

[Mu'addi] What's next for the Palestinian side?

[Al-'Akir] As far as we are concerned, the negotiations have begun in earnest. We are certain that the negotiations will resume in the coming few weeks, despite the lack of agreement over the date and venue of the next sessions. We expect we will be able to attain our goals after a long and hard process.

[Mu'addi] How do you explain the strikes in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during the conference proceedings?

[Al-'Akir] In common with any other community, including Israel, there are differences of opinion within Palestinian society. In any case, these differences are inspired by concern for our national Palestinian interests. Each sees national interests from his angle. What really matters is for all these efforts to pursue national Palestinian independence. From the perspective of a delegate of the Palestinian team, we get the impression that ours is a politically conscious people, and that we have the respect and appreciation of the opposition camp.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir, thank you.

[Al-'Akir] Thank you.

Joint Delegation Heads Meet Baker

JN0411062891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian side to the joint delegation; and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side, met in Madrid yesterday evening with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

During the meeting, a review was made of the progress of negotiations between the joint delegation and the Israeli delegation and the climate prevailing in the negotiations.

The official Jordanian spokesman said that Secretary Baker expressed his appreciation of the positive, practical Jordanian-Palestinian approach, which is expected to lead to a great gain for the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Lebanese Chief Delegate on Session With Israelis

JN0411151391 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Dr. Zafir al-Hasan, Lebanon's chief delegate to the Madrid peace conference, by an unidentified reporter from the studio in Amman on 4 November—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] How was yesterday's session, and what were the topics that came up?

[Al-Hasan] Yesterday's session was the first between the Lebanese and Israeli teams within the framework of the bilateral talks. It was frank. We exchanged views about the topics on the agenda—namely, the venue and date. We also addressed other topics. No agreement was reached about the final venue or when to convene the next session. The Lebanese delegation made it clear that we were there just to demand the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, providing for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory. When talks with all Arab parties reach a good conclusion satisfactory to all of them, and a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace is reached—which the peace conference has set out to achieve—Lebanon will then show solidarity with the Arab parties. The fundamental aim of joining the bilateral talks is to demand that Israel abides by Resolution 425 calling for its withdrawal from Lebanon.

[Reporter] Have other topics been discussed, for instance, stepped up Israeli military action in southern Lebanon?

[Al-Hasan] We raised the question. In any case, as you know, the military activity has stopped as a result of the contacts Lebanon has held with major world powers.

[Reporter] We thank Dr. Zafir al-Hasan, Lebanon's chief delegate to the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations.

Israelis React to Conference Developments

Netanyahu: 'Good Day for Israel'

TA0411065491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0605 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by political correspondent Arye Golan "late last night;" place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Sir, how do you sum up the Madrid episode?

[Netanyahu] In Madrid, Israel achieved one of the key goals it has been striving to attain for the past 43 years: holding direct peace negotiations with each of its neighbors. In addition to the peace treaty with Egypt, we are now holding direct bilateral talks with Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. Hence, a process aimed at attaining reconciliation is now under way with regard to all our borders. This will not be an easy process; it will be a very tough one, as evidenced in the struggles we were forced to wage and the provocations to which we had to respond, some of which we chose to ignore. Our intention was to get to this point without forgoing vital positions. This was the policy conducted by the prime minister, and it was fully implemented.

[Golan] Practically speaking, do you have an idea of what the continuation of the direct bilateral talks will look like; where will they be held; when and how long they will last?

[Netanyahu] The delegations will return to their countries within the next few days. The Israeli delegation will return and report to the cabinet, of course, and will decide on the way to pursue the negotiations.

[Golan] What will happen when we get down to brass tacks, to the demand to return territories and stop settlement—demands that the Israeli Government does not even dream of meeting?

[Netanyahu] There are many things people thought we would have to give up in advance just to get to the conference; however, we adopted a policy which I would describe as both flexible and firm. We insisted on points which may have seemed unreasonable or unattainable to others, but just as we insisted on our position in Madrid, we will insist on Israel's vital interests in the future.

[Golan] Would you say that today, the first day of the direct talks, was a good day for Israel?

[Netanyahu] Today was a good day for Israel.

'Very Friendly' Talks with Jordanians

LD0311152291 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Shlomo Ben-'Ami, member of the Israeli delegation at the Madrid Talks, by station correspondent Javier Arenas on 3 November—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Arenas] We are on the line from this press center to the Israeli headquarters, the hotel in which the Israeli delegation is staying. On the line live is Ambassador Mr. Shlomo Ben-'Ami. Good afternoon.

[Ben-'Ami] Good afternoon.

[Arenas] You are a member of the Israeli delegation and may have firsthand knowledge at this moment about the point at which we are in these negotiations. So far the

only bilateral talks have been this morning's first talks with Jordanian-Palestinians.

[Ben-'Ami] Yes.

[Arenas] At what point are we?

[Ben-'Ami] Well, with the Jordanian-Palestinians it was very positive, even a very friendly meeting. The atmosphere was extraordinary and we shall continue with them this afternoon.

[Arenas] You are going to continue. Is progress being made on any specific topics, on any agenda?

[Ben-'Ami] No, I cannot, I do not believe that it would be appropriate at this time to give anything concerning content. The only thing that I can tell you is that it was good and the proof is that we are continuing talking.

[Arenas] Confirming that those talks are going well?

[Ben-'Ami] Yes, yes. As for the Syrians and Lebanese, as you know, the Israeli delegation arrived this morning at the places where we were to meet and we waited half an hour, and when these gentlemen did not come we left.

[Arenas] What is happening now on the new meeting?

[Ben-'Ami] Now there are contacts to see whether they will meet in spite of everything, if they are coming in spite of everything. We are ready.

[Arenas] You remain ready?

[Ben-'Ami] Yes.

[Arenas] Until when?

[Ben-'Ami] Well, look, these things will have their limit too. We arrived here supposing that everyone has come here to talk of peace, and the fact that the Syrians have not arrived is perhaps not a very encouraging sign on their part about their intentions. The bottom line is that their trip here—and I think it is important to emphasize this—is the fact that the Syrians have come with the idea of making all the other delegations hostage to their pace and their radical stance. I believe that the fact that this morning we have met the Palestinians and Jordanians proves that they have not succeeded and they have not joined in what is the atmosphere and the mood of this peace process. The Palestinian-Jordanians understand that they have a subject, they have many points of coincidence with Israel in this process—for example, negotiating the question of autonomy—and they have no reason for wasting time and operating on the basis of being indebted to the Syrians. I think that the famous Arab front has been built on a fallacy and on the supposition that the Syrians are going to dictate the pace. I think that that must not be permitted.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Interviewed

Offers Aid in Talks

TA0311200591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari on 3 November in Madrid—recorded in English; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ya'ari] ... maintain Egyptian presence throughout the negotiations. Do we expect to see Egyptian diplomats, yourself, alongside the track of bilateral negotiations?
[Musa] You will see Egyptian diplomats around all the way.

[Ya'ari] On the spot?
[Musa] On the spot, or in the same city, or around the venue. We will be around, anyway.

[Ya'ari] Do you think it will be advisable to have an Egyptian representation at the negotiations table—for example, once we are down to discussing the details of self-rule for the Palestinians? You have acquired quite an experience on this subject.
[Musa] Well, if we hear that from the Israeli delegation and the Palestinian delegation—and get an invitation from the negotiators—we will attend, but we are not going to impose ourselves. The only thing we are going to do is to be around and available. It would be advisable, yes, but depends on the invitation to be addressed to us.

[Ya'ari] Is there a possibility of moving the talks at some stage to Cairo?
[Musa] In theory, the possibility is there, but in practice we have not offered Cairo, and it is not now among the cities considered as a venue for any negotiations.

[Ya'ari] Washington is preferable?
[Musa] Washington is being offered, but the preference for the bilateral talks, or rather, the decision on these talks is that of the parties in their consultation with the United States.

[Ya'ari] The question of substance: Do you feel that the Arab delegations should press for a suspension of settlement by Israel?
[Musa] I believe that not only the Arab delegations or the Arab parties, I believe the Israeli public opinion and Egypt, other Arab countries, the international community, all have to press for a halt, a freeze of building settlements.

[Ya'ari] As a condition?
[Musa] I do not like the word condition, so put this word out of our discussion—but as a prerequisite for the success of the process. It is not a precondition to attend, but a prerequisite for the success itself.

[Ya'ari] Finally, Mr. Minister, on which track do you think it is preferable to move faster: on the Palestinian track or on the Syrian?
[Musa] All tracks, both of them.

[Ya'ari] Which one do you feel is more promising?
[Musa] At this stage I am a little optimistic after the talks have started, so I believe that both will make headway, a breakthrough as soon as possible.

[Ya'ari] Simultaneously?
[Musa] Definitely.

[Ya'ari] Thank you very much.
[Musa] Thank you.

On Possible Mubarak-Shamir Meeting

TA0311112591 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Nov 91 p 1

[Report on interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Dan Avidan; in Madrid on 1 November]

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa told DAVAR Friday night that the Egyptian Government's stand on a meeting between President Mubarak and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir remains unchanged. Such a meeting can take place only if it is preceded by serious preparations and if it contributes to advancing the peace process on the basis of territories for peace. Musa was asked if Mubarak might agree to meet with Shamir now so that the meeting could become a catalyst to the Arab and Israeli sides' speeding up progress in the peace process.

Musa said that Egypt aspires to an Israeli withdrawal from all the territories, including East Jerusalem. He said that if Israel agrees to a settlement freeze, it would lead to faster normalization between Israel and Egypt. Egypt supports limited border adjustments that would not give Israel any special advantages and that would take place on both sides of the border between Israel and the Arab confrontation states. [sentence as published]

He said that Egypt aspires to a comprehensive Middle East settlement but would also not voice opposition if Israel signs a separate peace agreement with an additional Arab state. Musa called on Israel to make immediate gestures toward the Palestinians in the territories, which would serve as important incentives for the peace process. He denounced Israeli Air Force raids on Hizballah bases in South Lebanon, which he said constitute a violation of Lebanese sovereignty and harm the peace process.

The Egyptian foreign minister claimed that there has been no change in the Egyptian Government's position toward the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians. He claimed that he did not mention the PLO in his address to the conference for tactical reasons so as not to sabotage the political process, from which the PLO has so far been excluded.

Musa expressed support for a referendum in the territories to permit the Palestinians to fulfill their right to self-determination. He refused to deal with the issue of whether the Egyptian Government would support transferring the territories to a UN trusteeship for an interim period. He merely claimed that Egypt believes that the United Nations must play an important role in the arrangements.

Musa said the contacts to find a venue for the bilateral talks between Israel and the Arab delegations have so far not been discussed in Cairo. He expressed the hope that the bilateral negotiations would start in Madrid and then if need be move to another location, possibly Cairo, if there is agreement on that.

Meets Baker, Prince Bandar; Departs

NC0311161691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1558 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Madrid, 3 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan, Saudi Arabian ambassador to Washington, who is the Saudi participant with observer status at the Madrid peace conference. During the two meetings, the peace conference was discussed.

The meetings took place before Musa left Madrid for Cairo.

Maghreb Union Chief on Madrid Talks

LD0111200791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] In Madrid yesterday Mohamed Amamou, Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] secretary General, expressed hope that the Middle East peace conference will be able to respond to the rights of the Palestinian people. In reply to a question on the prospects of the conference, he expressed hope that it will truly aim at a peaceful solution based on international legitimacy and will lead to the recovery of occupied Arab lands and permit the Palestinian people to determine its fate and set up its independent state.

Mr. Amamou, who had attended the Madrid conference proceedings as an AMU observer, reaffirmed that the stances of the Palestinian delegation and the Arab countries were very clear during the first two days of the proceedings. He explained that such stances are aimed at finding a peaceful and durable solution based on international legitimacy.

Syrian, Israeli Delegations Depart Madrid

LD0411115491 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The Syrian and Israeli delegations have now left Spain after talks ended at the peace conference. Hector Arenas is at Barajas Airport:

[Arenas] Good afternoon. The Israeli and Syrian delegations, among the last to remain in the Spanish capital after having taken part in the Middle East peace conference—and clearly the greatest antagonists among the delegations at the meetings—left Madrid to return to their respective countries a few minutes ago. The first delegation to set off was the Israeli one. Led by Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, it left on a special plane on a direct flight to Tel Aviv. A few minutes later it was followed by the group from Syria, headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', which left for Damascus, also on a special plane. The Syrians and Israelis were seen off at the State Pavilion by Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, who has reduced his official activities considerably in recent hours because of the medical treatment he is undergoing for a gall bladder complaint.

Inter-Arab Affairs

AMU Secretary General Appointment Approved

LD2910173991 Algiers APS in English 1008 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Algiers, Oct 29 (APS)—The head of state of the Union of Arab Maghreb (UMA) has approved the designation by the Tunisian Government of Mohamed Amamou as the secretary general of the Union.

The agreement was given following the consultations the action chairman of the UMA had with the Maghreb heads of state.

The nomination of the UMA secretary general was made in conformity with decisions of the 4th session of the UMA Presidential Council (Casablanca Sep 91) which granted Morocco with the headquarters of the general secretariat and Tunisia with the function of secretary general.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat's 'Restrained' Speech on Madrid Talks

PM0411161891 Paris LE MONDE in French 2 Nov 91 pp 1,4

[By Jacques de Barrin: "Mr. 'Arafat's Restrained Speech"]

[Text] Tunis—Yasir 'Arafat spoke in a restrained way. It was the speech he would have made as the recognized head of a PLO delegation at the Near East peace conference if Israel had not vetoed his presence. The leader of the Palestinian organization made that speech in part on the evening of Thursday 31 October at his Tunis headquarters to the special envoys of 12 European dailies including LE MONDE, invited by the United Nations to meet with him.

He had just returned from his lightning visit to Marrakech where he had talks with the Moroccan king who has been very active on the fringes of the peace conference and who would possibly be pleased to welcome the post-Madrid negotiators to his country. The PLO leader said nothing about that. Does this mean it would be premature to look so "far ahead?"

In his view, the performance given by Mr. Shamir—"more Mr. No than ever"—does not bode well.

Sunk in his armchair, with a gloomy expression on his face, Mr. 'Arafat, the most obvious absentee from the Madrid conference, took the Israeli prime minister's speech to pieces word for word, a speech he described as "inappropriate and outmoded." For instance, he criticized him for having revived "old slogans" and "old dreams." As proof of that, he cited his "unbelievable" obstinacy in wishing to make Jerusalem the capital of Israel alone.

The PLO leader condemned the "stupidity" of the slogan "peace for peace" launched by Mr. Shamir, whereas it is obvious that it is "land for peace" which is now the issue "at the U.S. President's initiative." Did the Israeli prime minister deem that his Arab neighbors' nonrecognition of Israel is at the heart of the debate? Mr. 'Arafat grew angry: "He completely disregards UN resolutions make provision for the existence of two states, one Jewish—not Zionist—and the other Palestinian. I said that to the UN General Assembly in Geneva in 1988."

Mr. 'Arafat then attacked the Western countries, accusing them of having "spoiled their naughty child." He liked this expression, and he repeated it several times in the course of the interview. "It was you in Europe who were behind Israel's creation 43 years ago," he said. "Look how grateful they are to you now! By keeping you out of the peace process, they are humiliating you."

Israel is adopting an inflexible attitude "because of you Westerners," he said. "Give me one example in history where, on the eve of negotiations, one side has had the right to interfere with the choice of the members of the opposing delegation? Look at what has just happened at the peace conference on Cambodia."

It is a fact, the Khmers Rouge were there, around the negotiating table.

Mr. 'Arafat ended his remarks by criticizing the inconsistency of the Israeli authorities "who do not want me at the negotiating table, but ask me to accept and even guarantee the results." He refrained, however, from slamming the door on his enemies. "We want to achieve peace," he said. "This is the last chance we have. We must work hard to ensure that Mr. Shamir cannot destroy it."

For Mr. 'Arafat, who denied speaking like an amateur, the smallest goodwill gesture Mr. Shamir can be expected to make would be "to put an end" to the "illegal establishment" of Jewish colonies in the occupied territories and restore a more tolerable everyday life

to the inhabitants. The PLO leader once again appealed to the international community to exert "political, economic, and moral pressures" on the Jewish state. If peace is ultimately not achieved, "then," Mr. 'Arafat warned, "you, the Western countries, will pay the price of complete chaos" which will ensue and which the "fanatical groups" will exploit to move into action. There is no question, however, of abandoning the intifadah which, according to him, has already cost 2,000 Palestinian lives: The revolution of stones "will continue until the Israeli presence in the occupied territories ends."

At a time when states from the Baltic countries to Micronesia are having their full independence recognized, Mr. 'Arafat noted with bitterness that the powers of this world are only holding out the rather uninspiring prospect of an interim government for Palestine: "This is completely unjust after waiting 43 years," he said. He asked how much longer this "tragedy" will last. "Do you really realize," the PLO leader said with feeling, "what it means to have lost your land, to be a refugee burdened by problems from birth to death?"

Palestinians 'Forced' To Go to Madrid

LD0411202191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] On opening the international conference for defending the rights of the Palestinian people yesterday in Tunis, the brother president and leaders, Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine, stressed that the intifadah in the occupied Arab territories will continue and last as long as it is necessary until the Palestinian flag rises over the churches of Jerusalem, the mosques of Jerusalem, and the walls of Jerusalem, the capital of our independent state.

After reviewing the numbers of martyrs, wounded, detainees, and miscarriage cases, Abu-Ammar wondered: Do the occupiers, after their departure, intend to leave us a crippled people. He said: We have documents from three medical groups—from The Netherlands, the United States, and Belgium—about the Israeli use of banned chemical bombs against the Palestinian demonstrators.

The brother president, Abu-Ammar, confirmed that the Arab and Palestinians were forced to go to Madrid. He pointed out that the conditions of the Madrid conference were imposed on us by the United States, a issue that reflects its bias toward Israel.

He said he will ask the Soviet Union to put an end to the transfer of Soviet Jews and their settlement in the occupied territories. He said: Shamir puts himself above history, denies obvious matters, and continues his dream of a Greater Israel which extends from the Nile to the Euphrates. Brother Abu-Ammar said: We are not at all charmed by the superpowers. We are used to resisting these countries, the old ones and the new ones. The children of the stones will fight with their flesh and blood and the intifadah will continue.

Anticipates Conference 'Failure'

LD0411203291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Brother President Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] anticipates the possibility that the failure of the Madrid conference and warns against the consequences.

In an interview with one of the major Italian newspapers, he said that if the conference failed then the Americans and Europeans would pay a heavy price because all the extremist groups in the Middle East undoubtedly would not keep quiet. Brother Abu-Ammar considers that a failure of the conference could lead to tragedies.

He said that the statements by the Israeli prime minister, Shamir, who is called the master, will not elicit pessimism from the Arabs who remain committed to their position: peace for land.

After saying that the Arab countries demand a halt to the settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories according to UN Resolutions 242 and 338, the brother president pointed out the fact that the United States has given Israel 25 fighter bombers together with a promise of more aid.

Brother Abu-Ammar stressed his confidence in the struggle of the Palestinian people and their intifadah if their aims are not fulfilled, even if the occupation forces are to use new weapons against us, including gas.

PLO Spokesman 'Very Positive' About Israeli Talks

LD0411165191 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The PLO advisory group that traveled to Madrid for the Middle East peace conference held a news conference this afternoon to assess the first Arab-Israeli talks. Maria Jose Castejon reports:

[Castejon] At the PLO office in Madrid, a news conference with Nabil Sha'th, head of the PLO delegation and Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, and with 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamad, a PLO spokesman, continues. During this news conference, an assessment is being made of the progress made in the direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian representatives to the peace conference. The PLO spokesman gave a very positive assessment of the meeting and said that his organization, despite not having taken direct part in the negotiations, is constantly coordinating at all levels with the Palestinian delegation. So, the PLO feels that it is fully represented at this peace conference.

The PLO spokesman said that there is only one Palestinian people and not two, as some would have you believe when they deny the existence of the PLO. Regarding the nature of the agreements reached with Israel, he said that there was agreement to discuss autonomy as a first step toward the real aim of the

Palestinian people—the right to full independence and self-determination. Nabil Sha'th said that the negotiations with Israel will resume soon although it has still not been decided where.

PLO's Nabil Sha'th on Talks Venue, Dates

LD0411203591 Madrid TVE Internacional Television Network in Spanish 1930 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] If you have been paying close attention these past days, you have not heard the PLO at all. It is an organization which has been indirectly represented by the Palestinian delegation. Israel vetoed its direct presence. Now that the first phase is over, the PLO has spoken for the first time.

Nabil Sha'th, one of Yasir 'Arafat's advisers, has been discreetly watching the negotiations, as agreed with James Baker. This is what he had to say today:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Esther Vazquez] For the first time since the start of this conference, the PLO, through one of Yasir 'Arafat's advisers, today gave its first impressions on this peace process here in the PLO office in Madrid. Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the Political Committee of the Palestine National Council and Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, described the first results of the bilateral talks between the Jordanian-Palestinian and Israeli delegations as being very important. He said that the Palestinian delegation which came to Madrid represented everybody.

[Sha'th, in Arabic fading into Spanish] There was one Palestinan delegation representing one single Palestinian people, in any place, under occupation or in exile, and under one single leadership. Sha'th also said that although it could not be said that they were completely satisfied, it is a good beginning. One of the major achievements attained, he said, was international recognition of the Palestinian identity, leaving aside the stereotypes.

The Palestinian leader praised the role of James Baker as mediator in the negotiations and said that they maintained direct contacts with U.S. diplomacy. Sha'th said that dialogue between the PLO and the United States could resume very soon.

Regarding the venue for the new talks, he said that they could take place in some U.S. city. On dates, he set 17 or 24 November as probable.

Bassam Abu-Sharif on Bilateral Negotiations

LD0411215791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, by Mohamed Halloub; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Halloub] Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, after the meeting or the negotiations took place between the Israeli delegation and the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, a statement was issued committing both parties to continue negotiations on the basis of UN resolutions 242 and 338. Does this commitment signify a victory for the Palestinian negotiators? What are your comments?

[Abu-Sharif] There is no doubt that the insistence and the acknowledgement that Resolutions 242 and 338 constitute the basis for bilateral negotiations that will take place in the near future, other than in Madrid. There is no doubt that is a clear victory, especially if we take into consideration the fact that the speech of Israeli Prime Minister Shamir made no mention whatsoever of adherence to UN resolutions or to the two aforementioned resolutions. This should not suggest to us, however, that the negotiations will be easy or that the bilateral negotiations will go smoothly in the future. The enemy we are facing is an intransigent enemy, and the battle we are waging now may be more difficult than military battles. But we are determined to attain our people's freedom and end the occupation, however long and difficult the negotiations may be. We will, in fact, continue the negotiations on the basis of international legitimacy and the resolutions, which give the Palestinian people their legitimate rights, primarily their right to self-determination.

[Halloub] Washington has called for continuing the negotiations in Washington. What is the significance of this? Does this invitation have any relation to the resumption of the American-Palestinian dialogue?

[Abu-Sharif] Washington is a very convenient place for holding the next session of the bilateral negotiations, because first, it is the capital of one of the two states sponsoring the negotiations for peace in the Middle East, and second, it would give all parties the opportunity for a direct and close interaction with the U.S. Administration, which bears a moral and political responsibility toward the peace process in the Middle East. It is natural that this signifies the contacts between the PLO and the U.S. Administration will be resumed at the earliest possible opportunity, considering that the U.S. Administration is making allowances, to some extent, for Israeli sensitivities which, I believe, will not be important after a short period of time. At the same time, of course, I expect that the ban previously imposed on issuing visas to PLO officials will be lifted to enable them to follow up the work of the delegation, should the negotiations be held in Washington.

[Halloub] Do you think that holding the negotiations in Washington could give the U.S. Administration carte blanche to steer the negotiations politically?

[Abu-Sharif] The problem we are facing is not the U.S. Administration. The problem we are facing is Israeli intransigence. We have previously stated that President Bush's initiative, which includes the application of Resolutions 242 and 338, the complete legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, and the guaranteeing of

security for all states in the region. We have supported and responded positively to this initiative, and we urge the U.S. Administration to work for its implementation. What we want and what we strive for is that the U.S. Administration work for the application of President Bush's initiative. On the other hand, holding the negotiations in Washington gives the United States a greater opportunity to convince the Israeli Government that it would be impossible for the occupation to continue and that Israel must withdraw from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

[Halloub] Now that the bilateral negotiations between the Israeli side with each of the Arab sides have started, does this choice affect the coordination between the Arab delegations, or would it have the effect of strengthening the Arab position of the Arab negotiators?

[Abu-Sharif] The meeting in Damascus settled this issue entirely; that is, the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers which was held before the convening of the peace conference. We coordinate at the highest level with the parties concerned, and we also coordinate at the delegations level. I believe that the Arab delegations are in total agreement on the determination and insistence for the implementation of the international resolutions of international legitimacy, which guarantee complete Israeli withdrawal and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

[Halloub] In a statement he made recently—according to some news agencies—'Arafat does not expect the negotiations at the peace conference to succeed.

[Abu-Sharif] In political practice, we cannot envisage the results in advance. President Yasir 'Arafat, in light of the bitter experience the Palestinian people and the Palestinian leadership have gone through regarding negotiations, is careful to leave the door open for all eventualities. But this does not mean that we will not exert all our efforts to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion, because their success must result first of all in an end to Israeli occupation and the wresting of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. President Yasir 'Arafat clearly stated that the continuation of the Israeli intransigence—which could lead to the failure of the negotiations—will mean that the international community and the two states sponsoring the peace conference will all be bound to resort again to the Security Council to adopt suitable resolutions to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy by using one criterion in dealing with the resolutions of international legitimacy, as happened in the Gulf, when we saw the U.S. Administration resort to the Security Council to exact a number of resolutions in order to end the occupation of Kuwait. We are not asking the United States to use military force against Israel, but if the negotiations fail due to Israeli intransigence, the Soviet Union and the United States are supposed to go to the Security Council to adopt the necessary resolutions in order to implement international legitimacy.

[Halloub] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Al-Sus Proposes Jerusalem Capital of 2 States

LD0411135891 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1200 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] As you know the PLO was not officially represented in the Madrid talks but Yasir Arafat's representatives followed the talks very closely. Ibrahim al-Sus, the PLO's Paris representative, was this morning's guest of Francois Ponchelet in the Four Truths program. Mr al-Sus took advantage of his appearance to voice a rather surprising proposal. Listen to him:

[Begin al-Sus recording] Jerusalem might be the capital of two states: on one hand, Jerusalem, the Arab capital and the Palestinian state—the future Palestinian state's—capital; and on the other hand, Jerusalem which is the Jewish capital, the capital of the State of Israel. The town within its walls, the holy town itself might be a spiritual capital, it is the spiritual property of all the heirs of Abraham: Jews, Muslims, and Christians. This must not be forgotten. So there must be a status for this town, for this old town, in agreement with all the religions, in agreement with all international institutions, a status acceptable to all parties. [end recording]

Palestinians To Present 24 Demands in Memorandum

LD0411204691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The German daily FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU attributed to Palestinian sources that the Palestinians participating in the Madrid conference will soon present a memorandum which includes 24 demands. They are as follows: —Israel should respect and implement the fourth Geneva convention of 1949.

—The commencement of the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on the return of the Palestinians evacuated by the occupation authorities.
—Suspend all the emergency laws inherited from the British Mandate.
—Reduce the number of the Israeli forces occupying Palestinian villages and towns.
—Israel should give permissions to all members of the Palestinian Council [as heard] resident in the occupied territories to participate in every session wherever it might be held.
—Release of all the prisoners detained in Israeli camps.
—Suspend all military laws, measures, and orders that stop the political activities in occupied Palestine.
—Suspend the censorship, prohibition, and suspension of newspapers, books, magazines, songs, and plays.
—Open the closed universities, schools, and all social institutions and clubs.
—Reinstate the elected municipal councils.
—Stop Israeli propaganda against Palestine and cancel the naming of occupied Palestine as Judea and Samaria and also removing the adjective terrorism from Palestinian resistance.
—Suspend taxes imposed since 1967.

—Return the lands and properties confiscated by the occupation authorities.
—Suspend the measures restricting movement in occupied Palestine, including Jerusalem.
—Reunite divided families and suspend the resolutions forbidding travel abroad.
—Suspend the prohibition of exporting products from occupied Palestine, and allowing the establishment of development projects, including those belonging to the United Nations.
—Stop the destruction of houses and suspend the resolutions forbidding construction.
—Publish all information related to the budget of the occupied territories.
—Suspend all measures which restrict United Nations Relief and Works Agency and all the international organizations working in the occupied territories.
—Withdraw the settlers from (?Hospice) Hospital in Jerusalem and Dayr al—Sultan and Masjid Ibrahim in Hebron.
—Close the Nabha and Ansar camps in the Negev Desert.
—Suspend the prohibition of individuals and institutions transfering money within the occupied territories.
—Suspend the prohibition of raising the Palestinian flag and of the political activities of the PLO.
—Reconsider the Israeli Government's decision to seize the Palestinian electricity company in East Jerusalem.

Brothers, you have been listening to the text of the memorandum which includes 24 demands and will be presented soon by the Palestinians participating in the Madrid conference and which was published by FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU attributed to Palestinian sources.

* Details of PLO-Jordan Agreement on Delegation

92AE0038A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Oct 91 pp 1, 4

[Article: "Details of Jordanian-Palestinian Agreement on Madrid; Defining Mechanisms for Joint Delegation's Action; Committee To Draft Confederation Concepts"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Jordan has agreed with the PLO on defining the tasks of each side in the joint delegation and on the bases of the activity to coordinate and to draft a concept of the future relations within a confederation.

In the comprehensive agreement that the Jordanian Government and the PLO leadership have concluded, and whose full text AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained, the two sides note that they will work to ensure Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem.

The two sides have also agreed on the objectives and principles spelled out in the agreement to channel their joint work and effort vis-a-vis the peace process in the current phase.

The agreement makes it clear that the two sides may, should the need arise, return to and review this agreement with the purpose of developing it in a manner that serves the peace process and that, moreover, each side is eager not to act independently, and to is eager to take the other side into account when making any decision. A committee is being formed to draft concepts on the formula of the future confederal Jordanian-Palestinian relations. The committee will include Jordanian Government officials and PLO Executive Committee officials.

General Objectives

The agreement seeks to:

- Ensure Israel's withdrawal from Palestinian territories and the other Arab territories occupied in 1967, including the venerable Jerusalem, implementing Security Council Resolution 242 and the relevant UN resolutions.
- Solve the refugee issue in accordance with the UN resolutions, especially resolution 194.
- Enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right of self-determination, in order to establish a confederal Jordanian-Palestinian union.
- Ensure the Arabism of venerable Jerusalem and reaffirm its status as an indivisible part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, and a part which, in accordance with Security Council and UN resolutions, is subject to that which is applicable to the other occupied territories.

Working Plan

The agreement defines the working plan for implementing the agreement. Through movement with all the parties concerned, the two sides will seek to ensure the bases necessary for the convocation and success of the peace conference and for securing the Arab and Palestinian rights.

The agreement calls for a joint effort to bolster cooperation and coordination among the Arab parties directly concerned with the peace process, so as to underline Arab commitment to a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue and to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It further calls for a joint effort to secure comprehensive and ceaseless Arab support, at the various levels, for the Arab parties participating in the peace conference.

The agreement also calls for efforts to apply Security Council Resolution 242 to all phases of the solution, so as to ensure that they are interconnected and so that the comprehensive solution will achieve Palestinian sovereignty over the land, natural resources, political and economic affairs, and so forth.

Likewise, the agreement calls for efforts to secure international protection for the Palestinian people and the occupied territories throughout all phases of the settlement.

The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement also explains the tasks of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference as follows:

- A. The Palestinian delegation will take charge of discussing the various aspects connected with the Palestinian issue in the committees designated for the purpose. The Jordanian delegation will have the same responsibility in matters pertaining to Jordan.
- B. One or more coordinating members from the Jordanian side will participate in the Palestinian-Israeli committee. One or more coordinating members from the Palestinian side will also participate in the Jordanian-Israeli committee.
- C. Through the joint political committee, agreement will be developed on the subjects and issues that both sides in the joint delegation can discuss within the conference committees, such as the issues of borders, security, water, and so forth.
- D. Following the pattern of the opening session, both sides in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will take part in the multilateral negotiations.

The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement defines how the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference will be formed. The delegation will consist of two equal and independent Jordanian and Palestinian delegations and each delegation will refer to its political leadership for authority. The agreement also provides for forming a higher political authority, including King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat, to coordinate and direct the joint delegation's activities. The two Jordanian and Palestinian sides have further agreed to form a joint political committee that will be considered a direct authority for the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations, and that will organize their activities periodically.

The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation chairmanship consists of two chairpersons, a Jordanian and a Palestinian.

It should be noted that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on the peaceful solution process has been approved by the Jordanian Council of Ministers and the PLO Executive Committee.

• Furayj on Delegation's Role in Conference

92AE0037A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Oct 91 p 5

[Interview With Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Furayj by Huda al-Husayni on 21 October; place not given: "Ilyas Furayj, Palestinian Politician Who Has Been Calling For Peaceful Coexistence With Israel for 20 Years"]]

[Text] The Madrid peace conference will begin in less than a week. Whereas the Arab side is preparing to participate peacefully, we see Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir preparing for the conference by launching an attack on the Arab countries, leveling against them the charge that they want land but not peace, whereas he wants the land, peace, and participation in the Arab region's wealth.

In Strasbourg, Shamir—who rejects preconditions—sought to boost his shares inside Israel, declaring that Israel "will not cede an inch of the occupied Arab territories," and expressing the view that Israel's 1967 borders were easily penetrable borders and that because Israel's priority is survival, ceding the West Bank means the possibility of war.

Thus, Shamir calls for peace but thinks and plans for war. Therefore, we have to deal with his statements and his intentions with the same degree of caution, without forgetting the repulsive Israeli arrogance.

In any case, we are going to the peace conference resolving not to enable Israel to split the Arab agreement in order to deal with each party separately. We are going to the conference for peace, and the opinion of those who oppose it does not matter, because all want a just peace based on right. We who are abroad and who do not suffer from the occupation and from its humiliation may philosophize because we do not know what is happening inside the occupied territories. As Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Furayj says: All the Palestinians in the territories want peace and those who are in the Gaza Strip want it even more than those in the West Bank.

Ilyas Furayj has been appointed a member in the Palestinian negotiation delegation. As he says, his position has not changed in 20 years, during which time he has been urging peaceful coexistence with Israel through negotiation "because the times have changed and because a phased solution could lead to the realization of the Palestinian people's aspirations."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT held this interview with the mayor of Bethlehem before he was informed officially of the decision to appoint him to the delegation. We asked him questions from those who reject peace and he responded, urging that we "refrain from crying over the ruins and face the bitter reality." In the interview, he expressed his respect for ex-Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba and was not reluctant to express his appreciation for Palestinian leader George Habash. Furayj also said that "not everything Israel utters must be realized." He added that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told him verbatim that he wants to ensure for the Palestinians a solution that is "more than self-rule and less than an independent state." Ilyas Furayj asserts that Arab land will only be rescued by peace and that regaining Arab sovereignty over East Jerusalem can only be accomplished by negotiating calmly and coolly. In the "weekly interview," conducted with Furayj this week, he spoke of the need of the Palestinian people in the territories for a solution because the situation has become insufferable. Here is the text of the interview:

[Husayni] On what bases are you going to the peace conference?

[Furayj] To begin, I have not been officially informed that I am a member of the official Palestinian delegation to the peace conference (the interview was conducted with him last Monday and the names of the delegation

members were announced officially on Tuesday afternoon). I support the convocation of, and participation in, the peace conference in accordance with the message of President (George) Bush and President (Mikhail) Gorbachev. The foundations of peace must be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which deal with the principle of land for peace and the accomplishment of a just and comprehensive peace for the Middle East countries and peoples, both Arabs and Jews.

[Husayni] What guarantees have you been given that the Security Council resolutions will be achieved?

[Furayj] I am not fully informed of the guarantees given, but it is my opinion that the guarantees emanate from the two Security Council resolutions and from the international legitimate authority.

[Husayni] But these resolutions were issued many years ago and they have not been implemented. Therefore, they are not guaranteed.

[Furayj] But these resolutions are still valid and extant.

[Husayni] Some Palestinians say that you are going to this conference with Israeli conditions. What do you say?

[Furayj] This is absolutely untrue. We are late in negotiating with Israel. For 25 years, Israel has enjoyed the freedom to control the land, its resources and wealth, and to build settlements there. While Israelis have been bulldozing and seizing the land and building Israeli towns and villages, we have been going round and round in debates and arguments, thus ending up in our present condition. I thank God that all Arab and Palestinian sides support the conference now and have expressed their willingness to participate in it.

[Husayni] As a Palestinian, will you work with other Palestinians to make this conference a success?

[Furayj] It is the duty of every Palestinian loyal to his nationalism and to Palestine to work with all his might to make this conference a success.

[Husayni] But you have made numerous concessions to get to the conference. What else do you have to offer to make the conference a success?

[Furayj] The truth is that we have made absolutely no concessions. No discerning Palestinian can deny the political realities Israel has created on the ground. We have to deal with bitter reality and to work ceaselessly to get what can be accomplished. We can then move, step by step, to build the future of which we all dream.

[Husayni] But we hear no longer of any Palestinian condition concerning Jerusalem. Have you agreed that this issue be left for another phase of the talks?

[Furayj] It is my opinion that Jerusalem is occupied territory, exactly the same as occupied Bethlehem, Nabulus, Hebron, or any Palestinian village in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is the right of the Palestinian delegation to debate and raise any issue connected with any part of the occupied territories. Moreover, no embassy of any country in the world is in Jerusalem, but outside it. Thus, there is international consensus not to acknowledge Israel's claim that Jerusalem is its eternal capital. It is a unilateral claim that is not accepted by principles of the law or by world opinion.

[Husayni] But the world, especially the West, refuses to partition the city now and Israel refuses to withdraw from the eastern part of the city.

[Furayj] The fact is that, practically, it is difficult to partition the city after 25 years. In the wake of the elimination of the Berlin wall, we must take into account world developments. Moreover, withdrawal is not accomplished by a military solution. Therefore, negotiations have to be held calmly, coolly, intelligently, and skillfully to build trust and to get a peace treaty with Israel, in addition to Arab sovereignty rights in east Jerusalem, or Arab Jerusalem.

[Husayni] But Israel rejects the principle of Palestinian sovereignty.

[Furayj] Of course. Israel even rejected the idea of a conference, refused to accept the invitation, and created debilitating obstacles. But it has now succumbed and agreed to Secretary of State James Baker's conditions. Therefore, not everything Israel utters has to be realized.

[Husayni] But this conference is based on Israel's conditions.

[Furayj] No. It is my opinion that the conditions that are being implemented are U.S. conditions. The U.S. letter of guarantees given to Israel does not acknowledge the annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This is a gain. The United States has declared in writing that it does not acknowledge the annexation of the West Bank and Gaza to the State of Israel.

[Husayni] What are the Palestinian conditions implemented by the United States?

[Furayj] International legitimacy and the principle of land for peace.

[Husayni] The talk now is about the power of self-rule. Will you be content with this?

[Furayj] What Secretary of State James Baker has proposed is a two-phase solution. The first phase calls for self-rule for a five-year period. After the first three years of this phase, talks are to begin on a final solution between the Palestinians and Israel.

[Husayni] Can the final solution be an independent state, despite U.S. rejection of the creation of a Palestinian state?

[Furayj] Yes, the United States has rejected this, and I have heard the rejection from Secretary Baker personally, who told me: "We are working to establish for the Palestinians an administrative rule that is more than self-rule and less than an independent and sovereign state." This is what Baker said verbatim.

[Husayni] Is this solution acceptable?

[Furayj] A phased solution is acceptable to us. I believe that the negotiations will be held on this basis. In all meetings between the Palestinians and Secretary Baker, the core of the discussion was a political solution based on phases.

[Husayni] You say that administrative rule will last five years. Yitzhak Shamir has refused to stop the construction of settlements. This means the continued flow of Jewish immigrants. Shamir has also said that he will not agree to dismantle the settlements that will be built in the West Bank. Consequently, the rule that amounts to less than a state will be accomplished only in the Gaza Strip.

[Furayj] All countries of the world, without exception, oppose Israel's policy of continued settlement construction. The Palestinian delegation will demand, with all the power of persuasion and all the arguments it possesses, an immediate halt to the settlement process. I am fully convinced that there will be no negotiations and no conference as long as the settlement activity continues. Because the entire world opposes Israel's policy of continued settlement, we should feel optimistic.

[Husayni] Do you think that the Palestinian delegation will withdraw from the negotiations if Israel refuses to halt settlement construction?

[Furayj] I believe that we will cross that bridge when we come to it. One must not speculate on what will happen on the first day, the second day, the tenth day, and so forth.

[Husayni] Now that you have accepted the minimum, why did you reject Resolution 181 for partition in the beginning, and why did you accuse Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba of treason in 1965?

[Furayj] Bourguiba came to Bethlehem and I had the honor of receiving him. I admired his opinion. Throughout 20 years as the mayor of Bethlehem, I have advised that we challenge Israel with peace, that we accept the principle of peaceful coexistence with Israel and of mutual and simultaneous recognition by the Palestinians and Israel, and that we hold dialogue with Israel on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338. This has been my political course and it has not changed for 20 years.

[Husayni] You mean that you blame the Arabs who accused Bourguiba?

[Furayj] I do not blame anybody. I am only stating a historical fact that is well-known to everybody.

[Husayni] Many agree that Yitzhak Shamir refuses to have it recorded against him that he "ceded" land that he alleges is mentioned in the Bible. Consequently, he may agree to arrangements on the Golan Heights, but will not withdraw from the West Bank. What do you say?

[Furayj] Shamir is entitled to maneuver and try to frustrate the Palestinian people's resolve, and we are entitled to defend our rights with all our might. I hope that our Arab brothers in Syria and in the other Arab countries will stick with us and coordinate with us on every detail, large and small.

[Husayni] You live on land occupied by Israel and you know the political thinking of the Likud bloc, regardless of who leads the Likud. Do you think that the Likud could cede land which is, in its opinion, part of Israel's land?

[Furayj] I live in occupied territories ruled by Israel with the force of arms. I know the Likud policy and know most of the Likud Party leaders personally. I also know their tendencies. But when the talks begin, many things will change. If it hadn't been for Baker's determination and for his frequent visits to the region, Israel wouldn't have succumbed and wouldn't have agreed to the conference that will be held in Madrid at the end of the month. However, we don't have to accept all that is said, even though it is not easy to confront it. Nothing is easy. Politics is tantamount to dealing with reality and with the possible. Israel cannot defy the world. Moreover, it has been alleging falsely for 40 years that it wants peace with the Arabs. We are now challenging Israel openly. We want peace established on right. Thousands of reporters representing the media will cover the peace conference. The presence of this immense horde of media people will create some sort of interest and will have a very positive impact on the course of the negotiations, because it will not be easy for any party to be accused of obstructing and foiling the peace efforts.

[Husayni] Shamir says that he does not reject peace but wants to exchange peace for peace, not for land.

[Furayj] All this is true. Politics are facts, not dreams. There are 1.7 million Arab Palestinians in the occupied territories. We are determined to stay on our land, the land of our fathers and forefathers, the land that has belonged to us for hundreds of years. It is for this land that we are entering into negotiations which we know will be hard and tiring. We must learn from the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. Israel clung to Taba and Egypt clung to its right and to the fact that Taba is Egyptian. We all know how complex the negotiations on Taba were. But small as it is, Taba has been returned to Egyptian sovereignty.

[Husayni] The Egyptian-Israeli negotiations lasted 12 years.

[Furayj] It doesn't matter. When settlement activity is totally frozen, we have no objection to carrying on with

the negotiations until we reach all our demands. Moreover, negotiation is an art in itself.

[Husayni] Some observers characterize your agreement to participate in this conference, even though you have not gotten any tangible guarantees, as capitulation on your part.

[Furayj] I repeat, absolutely not. We have not capitulated. Is our position different from that of the Syrian Government, the Jordanian Government, the Lebanese Government, or from the position of any other Arab state? Let those who censure the Palestinian people for participating offer an alternative.

[Husayni] There are those who say that it would have been better for you to leave the matter of regaining the land to the Arab countries who are responsible for losing it.

[Furayj] The fact is that, when Jordan carried out its legal and administrative disengagement, we became responsible for the land. Moreover, the PLO is the sole legitimate representative. All the Arab states acknowledge this fact. The issue of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the occupied territories is under Palestinian jurisdiction and, therefore, a Palestinian responsibility.

[Husayni] Do you think that convocation of the conference and your participation in it is a victory for you?

[Furayj] Yes, I do consider it a victory for us. Prior to the intifadah, the Palestinian issue was so forgotten and it failed to arouse anybody's interest to the degree that people abroad forgot that there was an occupation. When the intifadah started and went on, the world remembered that there is a people who live under occupation, who reject this occupation, and who fight weapons with stones. Had it not been for the intifadah, Baker would not have come and the world wouldn't have paid attention to the issue.

[Husayni] Don't you think that the Gulf invasion and war is what has led to this?

[Furayj] It started with the intifadah and ended with the Gulf war. The Gulf war was a catalyst.

[Husayni] When the conference begins, if Israel demands a halt to the intifadah as a condition, would you agree?

[Furayj] Whatever is raised during the negotiations can be discussed. It is not right to note our tendencies and conditions, what we accept, and what we reject, in advance.

[Husayni] Does this means that if it is possible for the intifadah to be debated, you will ask the Palestinian youth to halt the intifadah?

[Furayj] We will demand a halt to settlement activity and we should expect Israel to demand something in return. There will be a reaction for every action there. Primarily, our fundamental demand will be that a halt be put to all forms of settlement activity.

[Husayni] We did not hear of Hanan 'Ashrawi previously. How has she risen in prominence and what are the reasons that motivated the organization to select her?

[Furayj] Hanan 'Ashrawi has a Ph.D. and she teaches at Bi'r Zayt University. She is intelligent, experienced, and has proven her worth and her ability to speak fluently and persuasively. She will be the Palestinian delegation's spokeswoman. I believe she will perform this task in the best manner.

[Husayni] But we have not heard of her previously.

[Furayj] True, true. We haven't heard about a lot of people because they have not been given the opportunity to get involved in politics. The intifadah is what has revived political activity in the occupied territories. Prior to the intifadah, the number of those politically active could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

[Husayni] Some believe that a deep split has developed between the Palestinian people and the leadership because of this conference. Is this so?

[Furayj] The truth is that the majority of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories support the peace process, hope for peace, and await it impatiently.

[Husayni] But Palestinian people in the refugee camps, in Lebanon for example, do not view this conference so optimistically.

[Furayj] This is true, but the solution always comes in phases. The first phase begins with the Arab citizens in the occupied territories.

[Husayni] Some Palestinians also say that their view of the Madrid conference will be the same as their view of the Camp David accords: not a positive view.

[Furayj] Rejection of the Camp David accords was hasty, in fact. The circumstances were different then. The circumstances have changed completely now, and so has the thinking. Change in life is possible. I hope that they will not be hasty in judging the Madrid conference.

[Husayni] Do you believe that the preparations you are making now to get to the conference reflect appreciation for the many years of struggle and for the souls of the fallen martyrs?

[Furayj] If we wish to evaluate issues in this manner, then we would be like him who cries over ruins. We are in difficult circumstances. We are in a dilemma and we must overcome it. We want something on which to build peace. If we allow this situation to remain unchanged, it will only serve Israel's interest.

[Husayni] What is your opinion of those who oppose the conference?

[Furayj] Whoever opposes the peace process serves Israel's interest. I declare this openly. Whoever opposes the peace process and Palestinian participation in the peace process without having an alternative to maintaining the status quo is the sincerest ally of Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, who wants to devour all Arab territories and to build housing on them to settle Jews. If this is accomplished for Sharon, the people here will end up living in blockaded and isolated areas.

[Husayni] You and others will conclude peace with Israel according to conditions which some Palestinians reject. After you conclude it, can you guarantee your lives?

[Furayj] Every politician must expect risks. Even President John Kennedy, who was elected democratically in the United States, was assassinated in the prime of his youth. In political life, every politician has to face risks. Nothing is guaranteed. The political and national duty is inevitable.

[Husayni] Dr. George Habash has threatened to withdraw from the organization. What will happen to national unity?

[Furayj] I have full esteem and appreciation for Dr. George Habash, and I appreciate his opinions. But disagreement in opinion is an acknowledged democratic principle. Dr. George Habash has his viewpoint and I have mine. I have full appreciation and esteem for Dr. George Habash as a Palestinian leader.

[Husayni] But what about Palestinian national unity? Will it be affected if Habash withdraws from the PLO?

[Furayj] This question should be addressed to Dr. George Habash.

[Husayni] What is Hamas' influence on the domestic situation?

[Furayj] I believe that the majority of the population in the occupied territories wants the peace process.

[Husayni] Even in Gaza?

[Furayj] Even in Gaza, more in Gaza than in the West Bank, because the situation in Gaza is insufferably tragic. The Gaza area is less than 250 square kilometers and it is populated by more than 750,000 Palestinians. Water resources have become scarce and even drinking water suffers from high salinity. I repeat: The situation in Gaza is insufferable. Gaza is like a sinking ship, and it needs to be rescued.

[Husayni] Will self-rule rescue the Gaza Strip?

[Furayj] A halt to settlement activity rescues Arab land from Judaization and opens the horizons of peace between Arabs and Jews.

[Husayni] Are there certain countries that have promised you economic aid if you agree?

[Furayj] I have not heard of any promise. But according to my personal interpretations, if the peace process progresses successfully, there will be generous financial aid for West Bank and Gaza Strip economic and industrial projects.

[Husayni] Will Palestinians from abroad be able to visit the self-ruled area?

[Furayj] All these issues will be submitted on the negotiation table. There is nobody in the West Bank who can answer this kind of question now. We have to wait to find out what agreement develops. We will try with all our might to facilitate a process of utterly free and dignified visits.

[Husayni] What will happen regarding a confederation with Jordan. Has this issue ended?

[Furayj] No, confederation with Jordan is an essential, fundamental, and strategic principle. In the self-rule phase, it is possible to establish joint relations between the two sides. We and Jordan are partners in good and bad.

[Husayni] Do you think that Israel wants the conference to solve the Palestinian issue, or does it just want or aspire to conclude peace treaties with the Arab states?

[Furayj] The conference will be held to establish a just and comprehensive peace between Israel, all the Arab states, and Palestinians in the Middle East region. This is the conference objective.

[Husayni] And the holding of a regional conference on sharing water, curtailing the arms race, and so forth?

[Furayj] If we achieve peace, then an understanding must be reached on all problems, including water resources, curtailing armament, and the environment, as well as studying the possibility of establishing a Middle East common market similar to the EEC.

[Husayni] Are you linking things to each other: peace first, and then a discussion of the regional issues?

[Furayj] Naturally. We must learn lessons from West Europe. We are all aware of the Europeans and their conflicts in World War II, and we know how Europe has developed and how it has now become an oasis of peace and economic affluence and prosperity. Moreover, the EEC has produced results for the economy of all the West European countries. Why shouldn't there be a Middle East common market that encompasses the Arab countries and Israel? A market of this kind, founded on the European bases, may attract 10 million tourists to the Middle East region annually. This would be beneficial to Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel. We must keep in mind that this region is the stronghold of the three divine religions.

[Husayni] Israeli Minister Sharon has stated that this conference could lead to war, not peace...

[Furayj] Sharon doesn't want peace. He wants land. This is why he is trying to arouse the emotions of Jews. At yesterday's (Sunday's) Israeli cabinet session, only two ministers supported him.

[Husayni] Will the participating Palestinian delegation raise the Palestinian flag?

[Furayj] According to what we have read in the press, there will be no flags raised. Rather, there will be name plates in front of every delegation.

[Husayni] What do you wish to say in conclusion?

[Furayj] I wish to appeal to our brothers to permit the export of agricultural and industrial products from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, so that the Palestinian farmer or worker can have the opportunity to live an honorable life. I also appeal to the Arab brothers to stand with the occupied territories and to open the Arab markets to their agricultural and industrial products. We are on the threshold of the peace conference now. Bolstering the Palestinian position in the conference requires supporting our people in the territories financially and morally.

Editorial Notes Israeli 'Evasion' at Madrid Talks

PM0411123291 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 1 Nov 91 p 11

[Editorial: "Palestinian Political Victory at Madrid Peace Conference"]

[Text] The proceedings of the second day of the peace conference in Madrid determined the major features of the bilateral stage of the negotiations, which is due to begin Monday. While Yitzhaq Shamir obstructed every hope of peace by completely refusing in his hard-line address to even discuss the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle, the Arab delegations' addresses—especially that of the Palestinian delegation—were stronger and expressed a real desire for a comprehensive peace based on justice.

Shamir's speech was addressed not to a peace conference, but to a partisan, ideological, Zionist gathering that revealed deep-seated expansionism, deep-rooted and deliberate intransigence, and blatant defiance of all the resolutions and conventions of international legitimacy. Shamir wants to end the state of war and secure full normalization without any territorial concessions and without recognizing another people's right to live a dignified life on their own territory.

U.S. President George Bush, who the day before yesterday spoke about the need for a spirit of reconciliation and tolerance and who called on the Arabs and Israelis to make territorial concessions, must have understood the substance of Shamir's message, which placed additional obstacles in the way of the peace process sponsored by his country.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the leader of the Palestinian delegation, firmly emphasized his people's legitimate rights, their unity, and their rallying around the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. Thus all Israel's attempts to replace the PLO and its leader, Yasir 'Arafat, have rapidly failed, as "Abu-'Ammar" [Yasir 'Arafat] was present at the conference, in its corridors, and on the rostrum. This was best demonstrated by the expressions on the faces of Yitzhaq Shamir all the Israeli delegation members during Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi's address.

It was the PLO which chose the delegation, it was Yasir 'Arafat who supervised the drafting of the address, his advisers are in Madrid, and every Palestinian represents the PLO.

When the Palestinian people's leadership agreed to attend the conference, despite its knowledge of Israel's evasive methods and conditions, it wanted to affirm to the entire world its desire for peace and expose Israel's true face. And it has succeeded in that splendidly. It has presented its just demands for repatriation and self-determination very efficiently, because no peace can be established or stability realized in the region without an independent Palestinian state. Nor can the Madrid conference achieve any success so long as Israel continues to play an evasion game, set preconditions, and encourage its supporters to continue building settlements.

Real peace is one that creates an atmosphere of mutual respect among the peoples of the region and returns Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty as the capital of the Palestinian state; otherwise, the olive branch will fall from the hands of the Palestinian people's sons and all the region's peoples, extremism will prevail, wars will break out, and Israel will be the biggest loser.

Settlement Issue Demands 'Strong U.S. Position'

PM0111125591 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 31 Oct 91 p 11

[Editorial: "Madrid Conference's Chances of Success"]

[Text] All the speeches delivered at the opening session of the peace conference in Madrid yesterday focused on the need to implement the resolutions with international legitimacy, especially Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; the need for all the region's people to enjoy security and stability; and the need to halt the stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction.

U.S. President George Bush said that a genuine and lasting peace should be based on the principle of security for all the parties and peoples, including Israel, and it should also be based on justice: This applies first to the Palestinian people, many of whom have known more distress and frustration than anything else. Israel has the opportunity to show it is willing to enter into a new relationship with its Palestinian neighbors, based on mutual respect and cooperation.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa went beyond that when he said complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, is the correct prelude to the establishment of a genuine peace based on justice and dignity. He also added that recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights "is the first guarantee for peaceful coexistence between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and indeed with all the Arabs in all their homelands."

Soviet President Gorbachev reiterated the same demands and provided a definition of a peace that emphasizes the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination and a dignified life on their national territory.

Thus all the speeches refer directly to one party, that is Israel, as it is the one occupying the land, committing aggression against its neighbors, denying the Palestinian people their legitimate rights, and refusing to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

Nothing is required of U.S. President George Bush except to implement the principles mentioned in his speech, as the resolutions of international legitimacy on which he said the conference is convened demand that Israel exchange land for peace and withdraw from the occupied territories.

Peace between France and Germany, which turned the relationship between them from hostility to alliance, as the U.S. President said in his comparison with the Arab-Israeli hostility, was established only after the two states' began to respect one another's rights, rather than having peace forcibly imposed by one state on the other or in accordance with preconditions, as Israel is doing now.

So how can the Arabs and the Israelis coexist while Arab territory is occupied and Israeli nuclear warheads, of which there are now more than 300, are aimed against all the Arab capitals? How can hostility turns into alliance while Yitzhaq Shamir, head of the Israeli delegation to the peace conference, is still refusing to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and halt settlement building in the occupied Arab territories? These settlements have swallowed up over 60 percent of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Moreover, the Israeli Government has started today to build a new settlement in the West Bank in celebration of the beginning of the proceedings in Madrid.

If the U.S. Administration's aim is to convene the peace conference and drag the Arabs to the negotiating table, then it has succeeded—after much pressure—in achieving that aim. But if its aim is for the conference to succeed in securing a just peace, that requires a different method.

When President Bush says that he will not impose peace and will not use the "veto," he is not helping to make the conference a success, because the international resolutions on the basis of which he said the conference is convened require huge material, political, and indeed military pressures to implement. Had it not been for the U.S. use of aircraft, fleets of warships, and 500,000 soldiers, the Security Council resolutions would not have been implemented in the second Gulf war.

The matter requires a strong U.S. position that emphasizes that there can be no double standard approach in dealing with international resolutions, and it is high time for such a position.

Editorial Views Bush Speech, Advice to Israel

NC0311133791 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Oct 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Key to Peace"]

[Excerpt] The speeches to the opening session of the Madrid peace conference mirrored world feeling about the concerns and torments the region's peoples have lived through for 10 decades without a permanent and just peace based on international legitimacy's principles and resolutions. Despite the fact that U.S. President Bush in his speech avoided giving any signal on the issues of Jerusalem and the settlements—Bush knows Palestinian sensitivity to these issues—he highlighted the need for a settlement according to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, affirming the U.S. pre-conference position and emphasizing the need to end war in the region, beginning an era of peace, and securing a just peace for the Palestinians. This is a positive response to international legitimacy's principles—which Israel still rejects.

U.S. emphasis on "the land for peace" principle stems from the fact that Israel, which rejects the principle, consistently views the United States as a shield when it wants to evade international obligations dictating its withdrawal from the occupied territories and returning rights to the rightful owners.

When speaking to Israel, the United States must do more than convince its leaders of the benefits of peace. Such advice does not elicit any serious response from Israeli leaders, while it is not associated with a real desire to turn the advice into effective, firm, and serious political, economic, and military action to make Israel take U.S. advice seriously, attending to the requirements of peace that it still rejects.

As we await with interest the delegations' speeches, particularly Israel's, delivered by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, we reassert that comprehensive and lasting peace in the region requires Israel to respect the Palestinians legitimate rights, accepting "land for peace" according to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and to respect the Palestinian people's right to determine their future and establish an independent state on their land with Jerusalem as its capital. These constants are the key to comprehensive and durable peace in the region. Unless they are achieved, the region and the world will not enjoy security and stability.

Commentary Examines Start of Bilateral Talks

LD0411220691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The start of bilateral talks yesterday in the Spanish capital between Israel on the one hand and the Arab and Palestinian side on the other hand—which involved three meetings between the Israeli delegations and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, then the Lebanese delegation, and then the Syrian delegation—would be a step forward in the peace process if all participating sides adhere to the resolutions of international legitimacy in dealing with the essential issues which are supposed to be discussed at these talks in the coming meetings. The commencement of these talks also means that the peace process has entered a new phase.

In spite of the fact that the first session of bilateral talks concentrated mainly on procedural and technical issues of the venues for the coming bilateral meetings and the work of the subcommittees, the main obstacle is the fact that Israel has not so far shown any readiness to commit itself to implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly those related to the withdrawal from the Arab and Palestinian occupied territories or recognizing the rights of the Palestinian people. This is in line with the Israeli positions that refuse to withdraw from the occupied territories. This means reducing to a minimum how much readiness Israel might show to transfer to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, to the extent that this authority will not include any kind of sovereignty over the land or water resources. This also means other restrictions will be imposed by Israel on all the other sectors, particularly economic.

The success of the bilateral talks relies primarily on the sincere wish to make real, permanent, just, and comprehensive peace, to end the conflict in all aspects and dimensions, and to create a new Middle East removed from wars and bloodshed. It is a peace that cannot be reached without implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy which should, during the talks, constitute a point of reference for settling the disputes on any of the issues of discussion.

The Palestinian side understands that the bilateral talks are aimed at reaching a transitional phase that would be an introduction for the Palestinian people fulfilling their legitimate national rights, primarily the right to self-determination and the right to establish an independent state.

This contradiction on the transitional phase itself and its aims between the Palestinian and Israeli sides demands effective and active international participation in these talks so that they do not reach an impasse at the first point of disagreement, and so that these talks can continue in a way compatible with international legitimacy.

Today, after the peace process has entered a new phase by the commencement of the bilateral talks, the continuation of Arab coordination and consultations is an urgent and necessary requirement demanded by the wish not to deviate the bilateral talks from their natural course. These talks should pave the way for a comprehensive peace away from the partial and unilateral solutions.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Ministers Postpone Formal Meeting

BK0511062291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0614 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Colombo, Nov 5 (AFP)—South Asian foreign ministers postponed a formal meeting here Tuesday in favour of "informal discussions" on the question of holding a summit this week without the King of Bhutan, officials said.

A downgraded council of ministers meeting to discuss the agenda for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit Thursday was scheduled to open later Tuesday, a conference spokesman said.

"This was essential as the situation regarding the attendance of the King of Bhutan Jigme Singye Wangchuck was being discussed at the informal meeting. The council of ministers will meet again this afternoon," the spokesman said.

The Council of Ministers itself was downgraded with the absence of the full foreign ministers from Bhutan and India.

The two were represented by junior officials, Foreign Secretary T.J. Riskin and State Minister for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro respectively, at the meeting which will end Wednesday, officials said.

Diplomatic sources have expressed fears that the summit itself may be downgraded with the absence of the Bhutanese monarch.

This year's summit was expected to focus on economic cooperation among the member countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Security has been tightened in the Sri Lankan capital with the authorities banning stray cattle and heavy trucks from the streets till the conference is concluded and foreign participants leave the island republic.

In Kathmandu the state radio said Nepal Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala Tuesday postponed his departure for Colombo after receiving a call from outgoing SAARC chairman President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives about the validity of the summit following the Bhutanese king's decision.

All previous summits of SAARC, which groups Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, have been attended by heads of state or government.

Algeria

El Oumma Not To Participate in Elections

LD2710103391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] The El Oumma Movement will not participate in the upcoming legislative elections. The decision was made by the movement's consultative council, which said in a statement that the El Oumma Movement will not attest to the credibility of the authority's strategy by going along with deluding the Algerian people that the legislative elections will contribute to decisively resolving their problems.

FFS Leader Reconfirms Nonsupport for Government

LD0411183491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The Socialist Forces Front [FFS] is another party preparing for the 26 December elections with resoluteness.

Party leader Ait Ahmed confirmed his party's determination to participate in the upcoming legislative elections, but he maintained his position toward the government. Ait Ahmed yesterday at a rally in Paris renewed the withdrawal of his confidence from Ghozali's government and said that the prime minister has brought back (?the conflict among the factions).

Council Rules Election Law Unconstitutional

LD2810234591 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] A short while ago we received a report from the Constitutional Council that it has announced the unconstitutionality of paragraph 2 of Article 54 of the electoral law which allows one person in a married couple to vote for the other partner by simply presenting the family book.

Two New Parties Formed; Total of 52 Parties

LD0211052691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Text] The number of parties in Algeria continues to increase. Our political map was consolidated yesterday by two new parties to bring the current number of parties in Algeria to 52. The first of the two new parties is the Party of Rightness [Hizb al-Haq], with its headquarters in the capital. The other is called the Rally of the Nation's Youth [Tajam'u Shabab al-Ummah], whose founder lives in Khenchela.

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Talks, Israel Settlement Policy

NC0411185191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that we must hope that the Middle East peace conference succeeds so that security and stability may prevail in the region. In a statement to reporters following his reception of Chadian President Idriss Deby, Mubarak said: We must proceed with the negotiations seriously. He added that neither party should impose anything that the other party does not want. Mubarak expressed his fear that the issue might get complicated because current circumstances are different.

Asked if he is optimistic despite Israeli provocations and the building of a new settlement in the Golan Heights, Mubarak said that this is Israel's method. Before the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, he said, they did more than that: They established the Yamit and other settlements. We should understand that these are negotiating positions. In order to learn what will happen we must first enter into negotiations.

Musa Meets With Mubarak on Talks, Comments

NC0411181191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that bilateral talks between the Arab delegations and Israel ended today. The talks will resume in accordance with the agreements that will be reached next week. The talks will continue in the form of bilateral negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis, the Syrians and Israelis, and the Lebanese and Israelis.

After his meeting with President Mubarak today, Musa said that the multilateral talks will begin in late November, ushering in the start of the peace process.

Musa was asked about the negative outcome of the Israeli-Syrian talks and their disagreement on the interpretation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He responded that the second and third sessions will also be negative. He said that these are not urgent issues, and we should not expect the problem to be solved in the first meeting or for the delegations to embrace or kiss each other when they meet. The issue is difficult and complicated, he said, adding that it is natural that they have not reached a solution in their first and second sessions. Or in the first week or month. This is natural, he said. Musa pointed out that in the near future the venue of the talks will be moved to Washington, but the dates have not yet been set.

Paper Says Talks Possible in 3 Weeks in Cyprus

NC0511064391 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 5 Nov 91

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AHRAM notes that the first round in the second phase of the Middle East peace conference concluded in Madrid yesterday without the parties' reaching an agreement on the date and venue for resuming the direct talks between Israel and the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, Syria, and Lebanon. But the parties shared the view on the need to continue consultations and have channels of communication to reach an agreement on the date and venue of the coming round of bilateral talks.

The paper adds that in light of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's contacts with all the parties prior to his departure from Madrid early yesterday morning, it is most likely that the second round of talks could be held within three weeks, perhaps in Cyprus.

Mubarak Delivers Address at Cairo University

NC0311195091 Cairo Egyptian Space Channel in Arabic 1706 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak at a ceremony marking the centennial of Cairo University's College of Science, at Cairo University's Grand Celebrations Hall on 3 November—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] I salute the College of Science with its deep-rooted history, rich present, and hope for the future. I also salute Cairo University, which has embraced this college [applause], and prepared the means for its development, growth, and progress.

Brothers and sisters: Language, culture, arts, and literature are the tools of human civilization to strengthen the ties of humanity, sow the values of truth and good, create mutual understanding among nations to help establish a more secure and peaceful world; a world that will safeguard the civilization of man and remove the obstacles which prevent the participation of all nations in the progress of mankind. Man's responsibility on earth is to build and maintain contact with his environment for the benefit of people and the good of humanity. Man's responsibility is also to give peace priority over war, provided that the peace is just and balanced and gives man his due and defines for him his responsibilities and commitments.

This is why we supported the need to work to find a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East that will end the bloody conflict which has exhausted the resources of our peoples for over half a century, and will safeguard the rights of all the parties and help them make positive contributions in a new world order which rejects war and dispute and calls for peace, cooperation, and love.

We sought this goal at the peak of the great October victory to assert to the whole world that Egypt fought not for the sake of war but so that a just peace that safeguards rights and interests would triumph. We proceeded on this path despite the huge obstacles that confronted us and despite a long history of hatred, grudges, and mutual fear. We pursued this path out of confidence of the soundness of our objective and to prove to everyone that peace is not an impossible goal and that it can rise because it will be in the interests of all peoples.

Brothers and sisters, Egypt, which chose peace as a firm strategic goal, views the convening of the Madrid conference as an extremely important historic event in the course of the Middle East issue and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to achieve a historic reconciliation between its peoples, a reconciliation that will protect the region's peace and stability, help safeguard world peace and security, and contribute to the emergence of a more equitable and stable new world.

We welcome the convening of this conference and the active participation in its proceedings. We consider this conference to be the correct beginning to establishing a comprehensive and just peace that safeguards the just rights of all peoples, both the Palestinian people's right to determine their future and the right of the Israeli people to a safe and stable existence.

We hope that the conference will be the beginning of a new phase in the history of the Middle East devoid of suspicions, apprehensions, and outmoded concepts, opening the door to new relations linking all the region's countries and peoples on the basis of coexistence, good neighborliness, and common constructive cooperation that will serve the region's peace and prosperity.

We also trust that a just and comprehensive peace will be in the interests of all parties, including the Palestinians, who are suffering from the unjust occupation and aspire to their right to self-determination. It will also be in the interests of the Israelis who desire a secure peace and aspire to normal ties with their Arab neighbors. It will be in the interests of all Arab peoples who aspire to devote their efforts to a stable and continued march toward development and democracy.

We are confident that the peace we aspire to will not be an impossible goal if wisdom prevails, intentions are sincere, and all parties realize that war, hatred, and conflict will not achieve security nor safeguard the future. The only way to protect the future and achieve security is to find an equitable peace that returns land to its owners; preserves the Arab, Islamic, and Christian rights in Jerusalem; achieves security for all; and prepares the region for a new phase that will open the door wide to cooperation among the peoples. [applause]

Stopping the building of settlements in the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan will be a step in the right direction. My calls in this regard have gone unanswered. It will be a step in the right direction that would boost the mutual confidence between the parties concerned and would

promote hope that a real peace may be achieved. This step will further give a momentum to the bilateral negotiations being held by committees.

We know that the road will be neither easy nor short. Negotiations will be difficult and exhausting. We hope that all parties will overcome their fears because peace is the aspiration of all peoples. We also know that there are people trying to thwart and torpedo the peace efforts because peace contradicts their old ideas or because it will undermine their interests. We hope that the parties concerned will not allow those people to undermine this great hope and this unique historic opportunity, which will be virtually impossible to repeat.

Egypt believes that the convening of this conference is a culmination of hard, long efforts. Egypt shouldered a great deal of these burdens so that the international community would support the conference, and we demonstrated our support by taking part in convincing all the parties to attend it.

We salute the role of the U.S. President and his administration for their great efforts at bringing this conference together and convincing all parties to attend. We also appreciate the Soviet president's participation in the conference. We believe the fact that they are co-chairing the conference underlines the entire world's concern for Middle East peace and their eagerness to achieve it.

Before I conclude my speech, I would like to talk frankly about certain issues. Those who are now 20 or 22 years old have no idea about the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel and about Camp David. They can be excused because many people have never read anything about Camp David, but they reject it and curse us. Those who read it now find many things.

The youth, who in 1973 were children, and today are at universities or otherwise, did not experience the October war. They were one, two, or three years old at the time. They do not know what the October war means; they did not hear the sound of the bombs or anything else. They were still in diapers. They were seven, eight, or nine years old when the peace agreement and Camp David took place. When they grew up and went to school or university, they began hearing of Camp David, everyone cursing Camp David, the people abroad cursing Camp David, and talk about treachery and everything. All that stuck in their mind was treachery, Camp David, and the humiliation of the Arabs. You all know the story of Camp David. But I now recount it to you so that our youthful sons, whether at universities or otherwise, know what the situation really was.

In 1973, the year of the October war, we had reached the breaking point economically and militarily; we had to do something. For us to have continued in those circumstances would have been impossible; we could not have even borne the military expenses. The October war started so that we could get the situation moving.

After the October war, things started happening, and we started getting closer to the United States which to that point had not listened to the Arabs at all. We achieved what is called a breakthrough [preceding word in English]. We managed to infiltrate and get to the United States, talk to the United States, and express our opinion on the U.S. stage, which at that time listened to nothing but the Israeli viewpoint.

We asked for the Geneva peace conference in December 1973 following the October war because had we remained quiet for one, two, or three years after the war, it would have been forgotten, we would stayed where we were, and the state of no-war-no-peace would have prevailed. The attrition would have continued, and we would have had to continue preparing ourselves militarily. The prices of military equipment were increasing at an incredible rate then. Thank God we opted for peace then. Had we not, in view of the prices then and the prices now, we would have had to have sold our entire country and two neighboring countries to get enough arms for security.

I am telling you the truth here. I say these things with a clear understanding of what I am saying and taking everything into consideration. We set up the Geneva conference. The Arab countries agreed to it, but for some reason, which I do not want to get into here, they did not show up. We set up the agreement on the first disengagement of forces, and the Israelis withdrew behind Masarah. We also set up a disengagement agreement with Syria and the Israelis withdrew. We then had a second disengagement of forces agreement, which our Syrian brothers refused to implement for some reason. I cannot remember their reasons. I also am not willing to talk about this subject now.

There we were, waiting to start moving for withdrawal and talks, and Israel is sitting there. The issue was forgotten for a while, and Israel received U.S. weapons at the end of the October war and they strengthened themselves fully, and what happened happened. War will never resolve the question. War, dear brothers, will not resolve the issue. How have we realized our cause? We did it through war, talks, and justice, through the three factors. We fought the October war, held grueling negotiations after that, and then the tribunal in Taba. So many people said that Taba would not be given back, that it would never be given back. We persisted over Taba; they dragged on and we dragged on, until we got Taba back. We did not let them keep one centimeter of our land. But they exhausted us. [applause]

I do not want to get into the discussion that took place on this matter—whether to form a single Arab delegation or whether to have different delegations. There are many stories to it. I will leave the subject for another time. I am not too interested in that. But I will tell you that in 1977 we talked about another Geneva conference because four years had elapsed and we were worried that the issue was being put to sleep. We then would have had to look for armament, and who would have given us arms?

I remember very well that in September 1977 we talked about the Geneva conference and whether or not we should go, whether we should go as one delegation or not, and whether we should stay in the same hotel or in different hotels. Between you and me, when I now think about what we discussed then as to whether they should be in one hotel and we in another or whether they should stay on one floor and we on another, I find it trivial. [words indistinct]. No. We wanted something. We wanted the occupation to end. We wanted to live. We had problems between as to whether a single delegation should go or stay in the same hotel. Now it does not matter. This was in the past. I saw a hand-written letter which arrived from U.S. President Jimmy Carter to President Anwar al-Sadat regarding the Geneva conference. I think it was in September 1977. This was one of the main points which prompted President al-Sadat to launch his initiative. The letter said: Mr. al-Sadat, the Arab-Arab problem is more intricate than the Arab-Israeli problem. You are Arabs, and you cannot reach an agreement. This was a hand-written letter. I am not making this up. It said: It is more intricate than the Arab-Israeli problem. Israel saw that we were having problems among ourselves. It kept silent. It was ready to go to Geneva, but we could not get ready to go. To go as a single delegation or not. Carter had a difficult time with us. The United Nations was meeting, and he met with all the Arab foreign ministers. He was in a state of despair, so he sent the letter. What could al-Sadat do? May God have mercy on his soul. By God, no one knew his true value until now. [applause]

Al-Sadat took a risk and went to Israel. He did not go to surrender. Do you remember his speech at the Israeli Knesset? All the Arabs praised it. He told them: This is our right, and there is no alternative. You, of course, have not forgotten. Our youth perhaps do not remember. In 1977, they were about six years old. They watched television, but could not understand. They saw the president speaking in the Knesset, and they probably said to themselves: So what? The president speaks every day. [applause]

After the conference, the momentum must continue, or else the process will die. So we asked to convene a conference at Mina House in Cairo. We invited all the parties, including the PLO. In this regard, I want to tell you, brothers, that I am not criticizing anyone. I am speaking so that the youth will know what Egypt did and is doing, so that one of them hears someone blaming Egypt or saying that Egypt is not doing its duty, he will know the truth. All of this is written history. I am not writing a story or a book. These are written facts. The meeting at Mina House was to prepare for the Geneva Conference. All the flags, including the Palestinian flag, were raised at Mina House. The Palestinian flag, which cannot be flown anywhere now, was raised at Mina House. This is a fact. You ask me why? Ask them why.

The Israeli delegation came here to the Mina House and saw the Palestinian flag, but no one said anything. It seems that they knew that the Arab delegations were not coming. The Arab delegations did not come and the process suffered a setback. What could we do? The issue had two parts. Our land constituted 90 percent of the occupied territories. Al-Sadat went to the United States. We had open lines with the United States. Given U.S.-Israeli relations, Israel was upset that we had open lines with the United States and had easy access to go there, meet Congress, hold talks, and explain our side to the international press. Before that, Israel had a monopoly on the lines of communication. We held talks in the Camp David resort, which they call David stable. I remember that the talks lasted approximately 21 days. We went for talks to arrive at a final solution to the Egyptian and Palestinian issues. The talks were not confined to the Egyptian issue because they said was a separate solution. The talks were difficult and I used to talk to President al-Sadat every few days. In the final week, he told me that there was no use and that he was fed up and was packing to go back to Washington on his way home. The U.S. President interceded because he did not want the process to fail.

An agreement was reached and the Israelis worked out principles and a framework to resolve the issue. Instead of emerging with nothing, they worked out framework. They formulated a framework to solve the Egyptian-Israeli problem and another framework to resolve all aspects of the Middle East issue: the Palestinian issue, the Golan issue, and all other issues. The framework is not an agreement, but a protocol. There was no obligation. We sought to negotiate the first framework to get back our land first. If we could have managed to bring back the other part, we would have done so.

We reached the peace agreement in 1979. I recall that the negotiations began in October. The negotiations would stop and we would quarrel, and then resume and then stop and so on and so forth. As vice president, I travelled there several times; however, we did not stop. In fact, President al-Sadat would not stop trying. It was necessary to keep the wheel turning or it would be difficult to make it turn again if it stopped. Momentum was necessary to keep the initiative alive. Israel wanted the process to stop. We reached the peace agreement in 1979. In 1980, a speech was made at a peace conference and, regrettably, someone said that Israel [words indistinct] from Egypt a passport to keep the Golan or something of this sort. I was angry but said I would meet with the brothers for talks. We signed the peace agreement. In 1980, Menachem Begin was prime minister. Although he was tough we reached an agreement with him. They would argue and we would argue more. We wore each other out.

In 1980, he declared Jerusalem the capital of Israel and this generated a heated argument between us. I have two letters exchanged in this regard. President al-Sadat exchanged two letters with Begin. In the second letter, al-Sadat was extremely harsh on the Jerusalem issue.

Al-Sadat died and I assumed power. I am sure they are listening to me now. After I assumed power, they said I

had to visit Israel. They repeated this in a sort of psychological warfare. I maintained silence and exercised self-restraint. [applause] I do not hide here that the withdrawal took place in April 1982. Six or seven months were extremely harsh. I received strange messages saying that Israel might not withdraw. I had to exercise self-restraint until their withdrawal was carried out in April 1982.

They created a problem about Tabah. They said a marker should be here, not there. Then we had to be involved in the agreement and arbitration; however, what is important is that we accepted the arbitration and we obtained our land.

We started the autonomy talks, which represent the second framework of Camp David. I will say something about it so that our sons—and I am prepared to leave a copy of this framework at the university—can understand what was there in the second framework for resolving the whole issue. There was no settlement issue yet.

Let me discuss two points. Please be patient with me. After the introductory passage, it says that the articles of the UN Charter and other norms accepted by the international law and legitimacy can now provide acceptable standards for relations among all countries. The achievement of peaceful relations in accordance with Article 2 of the UN Charter and holding negotiations in future between Israel and any neighboring country that is ready to negotiate the issue of peace and security with Israel is an essential matter to implement all articles and principles as mentioned in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. They are the same resolutions about which we are taking these days, namely land for peace. The U.S. secretary of state explained this when he mentioned Resolutions 242 and 338 and said: Our understanding of these two resolutions is that land should be returned for peace.

Let us see what is there about the West Bank and Gaza. Egypt and Israel agree that in order to guarantee an organized and peaceful transfer of the authority—taking into consideration the issue of security by all parties—there must be transitional arrangements concerning the West Bank and Gaza for a period not exceeding five years. We are only explaining the paper of principles so that Jordan and Palestine can enter the process of negotiations. We are facilitating the issue for them. We are paving the way for them so they will not encounter any obstacles. The transitional arrangements are for a period not exceeding five years to guarantee a complete autonomy for the people of the West Bank and Gaza. The Israeli military government and its civil administration will withdraw from them once a self-rule authority has been elected by the citizens of these two areas through direct free elections to replace the present military government and to negotiate the details of the transitional arrangements.

Free elections will be held in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and based on the results of these elections, a new authority will be set up which will take over the rule and the Israeli military forces and civilian government will withdraw to points which will be agreed upon. What else did they say? They also said the police have to be agreed upon, and Jordanians are allowed to take part, or even Europeans if they so wish.

The parties will also negotiate on an agreement which will determine the responsibilities of the autonomous rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In other words, in accordance with the 1978 Camp David framework, by 1983 there would have been autonomy, settlements would not have covered 75 percent of the land, we would not have had this problem, and we would have come a very long way a long time ago. After the five years, the Palestinian can vote regarding his destiny, and no one else will determine his destiny. The five-year transition period starts when autonomous rule is established. This means that the time period after elections is five years. And after the five-year period, negotiations over the final status will take place. The Palestinians then have the right to determine their future, whether they wish to join this side, or join Jordan. They would be free to choose.

These negotiations will then determine, among other things, the borders and the nature of the security arrangements. The resulting solution after the negotiations will have to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their just demands. In this way, the Palestinians will participate in their own self-determination through—and here they give numerous points—voting, and other such details I do not wish to go into here.

Another point here is: With the agreement of the sides, it has been decided to give individuals who were expelled from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967 the right to go back, while taking the necessary measures to prevent upheaval and any aspect of fragmentation. The committee [diverts to explain]—a committee was formed including Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and the authority of self-rule; that is Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians. This committee has the right to deal with other issues of joint interest, any issue the committee wishes, and nobody can veto it.

This is the framework of the agreement for which we were damned and cursed. They froze relations with us and so on. These circumstances are dead and gone now. I only say this because our brothers, the youth of today, have no idea about these events and I am telling them so that they know what their country did. They should know that their country has been working to resolve the Palestine question since the beginning. Egypt is the country that transformed the Palestinian question into a cause of one people and state. [applause]

One can often see foreign concepts infiltrating into the thinking of people here, and some of our brothers, the

students, created a stink. Despite all that, they are still thinking clearly. Perhaps they had to do what they did.

Jerusalem. We will not sit with Israel. Who are you going to sit with then? Who will you solve your problem with? My dear, your money is in Israel. It is with the Jews. The whole rich world's money is in the hands of the Jews. There are many people, I do not need to mention them here, whose advisers are Jews because they have money. How else could the 4 million Jews in Israel be troubling the 170 million Arabs here? They bother them.

Jerusalem. We shall not budge on inch on the Jerusalem issue. You probably know that I gave an interview to THE NEW YORK TIMES a week before the conference. The interviewer came here and held the interview to publish it on the day of the conference. He asked me about Jerusalem. I sent a message to the Israeli prime minister once and told him to please stop talking about Jerusalem because it is a very sensitive issue since it deals with religion. I told them that it was an issue just as sensitive to the Arabs, the Muslims, and the Christians as it was to them. [applause]

We still uphold the Jerusalem issue and no one has disregarded it. Jerusalem is the third Holy Mosque and no one can ever disregard it. We must understand this [applause] we have no time for oneupmanship. Leave us work. We are guardians of this trust and we are as sensitive on this issue as anyone. Neither Muslims nor Christians can compete in their concern about this issue. Let us work. We will not behave like that. Some people in one country said they would establish a 5-million-member army to liberate Jerusalem. Go! Is anyone stopping you? Go liberate it, and I will embrace you, kiss you, welcome and applaud you. Go liberate it! Is liberation a matter of talking? We have been talking for 43 years. We are fed up with talking. Let us work. We fought for 4 years [as heard] until we reached this state of affairs. I now mention some figures to show you how we would be if we had not made peace.

As for Jerusalem, I have not been to Israel yet. They tell me to visit Jerusalem. I told them I was sorry; There is a dispute between us about Jerusalem. I will not go there at all. The first time President al-Sadat visited Tel Aviv he went to Jerusalem because it was during the Muslim 'id. When we discussed his second visit, I asked him why not travel by ship. He said it was a good idea. He travelled by ship—the Jews will hear this now—to land in Haifa. [applause] He travelled by ship and landed in Haifa. I will not do that. I will not go to Jerusalem until it is no longer the [Israeli] capital and the problem is solved.

Some talk so much about Jerusalem and say that the countries that went to the peace conference are committing treason. What treason! Why don't they stop using this word. This is the sort of nonsense that brought us to this deplorable state of affairs. Why do they talk so much and do not act? [applause] This is strange. They only talk because it is so easy. I could talk forever with fiery language, waste everything, mislead our youth, and destroy the country. Eventually we would find no food or development.

Had we remained at war—you know our enormous debts—we would have continued to buy arms. The current new world order just emerged. Previously we sided with the East and slandered the West. Now there is neither East nor West. This is the new world order. The cold war and the hot war are over. We need to think in accordance with the new international order.

I will tell you about the price of arms from 1970 to now, had they been available. This is just an example. In 1970, we purchased an air defense missiles battalion for 3 million Egyptian pounds. It currently costs 132 million Egyptian pounds. This is the cost of just one battalion and we would need many air defense missile battalions. We would need billions, if we remained at war, and in wars these missiles would be destroyed daily. We just cannot afford it. In the past, an artillery battalion would cost 258,000 Egyptian pounds. It currently costs 6 million Egyptian pounds. Imagine how many artillery battalions we would need! Take aircraft: In the past a MiG-21 cost 500,000 Egyptian pounds. A squadron would cost 10 million Egyptian pounds. Ten million Egyptian pounds for a squadron was not much and could be obtained by selling some goods. Today, a squadron costs 2.25 billion Egyptian pounds. If any aircraft were to be shot down, we would have to buy two, three, or four squadrons. We would have needed 15 billion Egyptian pounds and each time an aircraft were to be shot down, they would have to be replaced, with costs running form 20 to 30 billion Egyptian pounds just for aircraft, not to mention artillery pieces and tanks. A tank battalion used to cost 3 million Egyptian pounds. Now it costs 650 million pounds. When we have 15 or 16 divisions, we would need eight air defense units. Where can we get the funds?

I cannot tell you what our state of affairs would have been had we remained at war. We would not have been able to sit down together as we are doing now. There would be no one in a university. We would not have food, infrastructure, housing, electricity, telephones, jobs, or new plants. Who would come to us if we were at war? We would have nothing. I just cannot imagine the situation we would have been in. We must thank God.

Praise God, we are still making efforts to solve the Palestinian problem. Only yesterday, Palestinians contacted me to help them. We are helping them without any delay because this is Egypt. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, Egypt, which sought a comprehensive peace while at the peak of the great October war, is confident of the soundness of its initiatives on this path. Egypt hopes that the conference will succeed in attaining its goals, because from its great sacrifices, Egypt knows the meaning and repercussions of war. It is not only a matter of weapons; human beings are killed, families lose their bread winners, making widows, orphans, and

maimed. From its experience in peace, Egypt knows that peace means building, progress, stability, and democracy. There is nothing like peace. May God grant us success. May God's peace be upon you. [applause]

Mubarak To Deliver 'Important' Address 14 Nov

NC0211160991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1321 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today issued a republican decree which calls the People's Assembly to convene its new parliamentary session on 13 November.

The assembly is expected to hold a procedural session that day to elect the Assembly leadership; a speaker and two representatives to represent the workers' and peasants' group, the other for the other deputies. The Assembly will then hold two other sessions in which it will elect the councils for the 18 qualitative committee bureaus, as well as for the ethics and public committees, and the committee for the parliamentary department.

President Husni Mubarak is expected to deliver an important political speech before the joint session of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council on Thursday, 14 November, in which he will discuss the latest developments in both the Arab and international arenas.

Plan To Accept Israel in United Europe Denounced

NC0311091191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 3 Nov 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—In an editorial, AL-AHRAM criticizes an announcement by Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis in which he said that the 12 EC countries have agreed with the states of the European Free Trade Association, EFTA, to accept Israel as a member of United Europe in 1992.

The paper cautions that this process is bound to help the Israeli economy flourish and remove many of the obstacles that barred Israel's presence in Europe in the past.

The paper notes that this step is being taken at the same time as the Madrid conference, one objective of which is to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem. The paper concludes that it would have been better to defer this step until Israel showed a sincere desire to achieve peace.

Assurances Received From Libya on Border Crisis

PM0411165591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Nov 91 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Cairo and Tripoli Succeed in Containing Sudden Crisis on Egyptian-Libyan Borders"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Egypt and Libya have succeeded in containing the sudden crisis between the two countries resulting from the ill-treatment of some Egyptians by some Libyan officials at border crossing points.

Informed sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the crisis was contained after the intervention of the political leaderships in both countries through extensive but quiet contacts.

The sources further said that Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm, general coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan relations in Cairo, has conveyed new assurances to senior Egyptian officials reaffirming his country's eager interest in maintaining the special relations between the two countries and emphasizing that the incidents which had occurred were merely individual incidents and understandable mistakes.

Qadhdhaf-al-Damm also informed the Egyptian officials that he has issued instructions to Libyans manning the borders to treat Egyptians well and observe the regulations governing trade exchange between the two countries.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that more contacts will be held between the two countries in the next few days. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister on Libyan Ties, Madrid Talks

NC0411191791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has said that the security situation on the Egyptian-Libyan borders is calm. He added that President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi decided to open the nations' borders in response to the wishes of the fraternal masses.

Musa said the isolated incidents that have occurred against some Egyptians in Libya will not affect the march of rapprochement and cooperation between the two countries, adding: These isolated incidents will not worry us nor will they affect the strong ties between the two countries.

In statements to journalists following a police graduation ceremony, Interior Minister Musa said that the Libyan secretary of the interior contacted him after the incidents and demanded that joint police patrols be formed to confront those who are trying to undermine the good relations and rapprochement between the two countries. He said that the issue will be discussed in the near future. [passage omitted]

The interior minister discussed the detention of people who reject the Madrid peace conference, saying that every citizen has a right to express his views with complete freedom. The security organs will not bother anyone as long as they don't break the law. When certain university students demonstrated and burned flags, we did not oppose them because they expressed their views on the

campus and did not go out to the streets. He said that 18 extremists were detained because they printed hostile pamphlets and tried to distribute them to citizens in mosques or placed them under the doors of houses. They have been referred to the prosecution for interrogation.

He said: We reject one-upmanship; the opposition papers write anything they want and their reports are more strongly worded than these leaflets. He said: We are ready to take those extremists who want jihad to liberate Jerusalem to Rafah and open the borders for them.

The interior minister reasserted Mubarak's statement that Egypt offered a great deal to the Palestinian cause and is still exerting efforts to liberate Jerusalem and restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. We do not need one-upmanship from anyone. He denounced attempts by certain people to incite opposition to the Madrid conference. He said that the Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians, and Lebanese, who are concerned with the problem, went to Madrid willingly to negotiate with the Israelis to restore their rights, which Egypt did well over 14 years ago.

Agreement Signed With Libya on Air Cooperation

NC0211221391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1658 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Nov (MENA)—Libya and Egypt today signed the minutes of an agreement on cooperation in various technical fields of air transportation. The cooperation includes organizing activities between the airlines and air transport of the two countries.

The Libyan news agency said the minutes were signed for the Libyan side by the secretary of the administrative committee for the general body of civil aviation and meteorology, and for the Egyptian side by 'Ali 'Abd-al-Khaliq Mutawa', first deputy of the chairman of the administrative board of the general Egyptian aviation organization.

Opposition Condemns Conference, Calls for Jihad

NC0211221191 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Oct 91 p 1, 11

[By Salah al-Nahif]

[Text] The entire nation, with all its sects and political currents, has rejected any negotiations that do not recognize the firm, legitimate, and historic rights of the Palestinian people to their sovereignty over all their usurped soil. Any dealings that do not admit that there is no way out, or means for progress, to overcome our grinding crises other than adhering to the Islamic shari-'ah's course, ethics, action, and jihad, and realizing the demands of the people to strengthen the principles of justice and consultation when ruling the country is doomed to failure.

The leaders of the Labor Party, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Liberals, the Wafd Party, the National Progressive Unionist Grouping, Misr al-Fatah, the Democratic Union, al-Ummah Party, and the Nasirite Party have affirmed that the Palestine question is the prime cause of the Muslims. Palestine's land is the land of Islam, and no one has the right to forfeit one inch of that territory. If the land of Islam is occupied, jihad becomes a duty for each Muslim man and woman.

The leaders of the Egyptian political parties and forces affirmed that the imposed conditions of settlement do not realize the Arab dream of a just, permanent, and stable peace due to Arab weakness. They call on the Islamic nation to stand firmly in face of the suspect liquidation and settlement negotiations which the United States is seeking to impose on the region through the Madrid conference to realize the American and Zionist interests of imposing hegemony on the destiny of the nation.

Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri, in a speech he delivered at a Liberal Party conference on Sunday in Alexandria, called on the leaders of the nation to rally their potential, clear the Arab air, and overcome disputes now. Leaders of Egyptian political parties and forces attended the conference.

Shukri said: The Madrid conference will not realize the Arab hope for a just and permanent peace. He called on the Muslims to shoulder their responsibilities toward Palestine and reject any negotiations that do not recognize the firm and historic rights of the Palestinian people to all their usurped soil.

Counselor al-Ma'mun al-Hudaybi reviewed in his speech the U.S.-Zionist scenario of the Madrid meetings, saying: The mere fact that Arab rulers have gone to Madrid means submission to all the concessions in return for nothing from the Zionist entity, as well as removing Jerusalem from the negotiations' table and terminating the future of 1.2 million Palestinians outside the territories. The United States has not pledged the return of the Golan Heights to Syria.

Al-Hudaybi wondered: Is this a just peace? How do we trust a people whose doctrines are based on their land claim that Israel is the land between the Nile and the Euphrates?

Commentary Praises Baker's Efforts, Madrid Talks

NC0211171391 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Ahmad al-Qasir commentary: "Where is the Madrid Conference Heading?"]

[Text] The first stage of the historic peace conference in Madrid ended yesterday in a stormy atmosphere following Yitzhaq Shamir's speech and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's reply. This prompted some to [words indistinct] fears that the conference would end in

shambles. We can confidently say that the first stage of the conference ended successfully in accordance with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan.

While waiting for the start of the second stage of bilateral talks tomorrow, Sunday, as decided on and announced by all the parties, an important question arises: Will the Madrid conference ultimately succeed in achieving Middle East peace or will it, at least, continue despite the heated start and disparity of stands? Before answering this question, it is worth noting a number of important observations.

1. The chronic Middle East crisis—in all its dimensions, complications, and many altercations which have lasted more than 40 years—has witnessed several wars and left behind many legacies and much hatred. This problem will not end merely by having all the parties sit at the negotiating table. [words indistinct] the parties at the table to find a formula for the peace process acceptable to all is an important and positive step on the peace road.

2. The intransigent attempts that emerged from the delegations' speeches, especially by Israel, show that each party was trying to enter into bilateral negotiations from a position of strength. If Shamir, who decided to personally lead the Israeli delegation and put his supporters on the committees, believes that he is speaking from a position of strength and is attempting to impose a fait accompli on the Arabs and the world, he should understand that for the first time he is facing a united Arab group, one that speaks the language of the age, reason, and pragmatism based on international legitimacy as represented by Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the UN partition resolutions.

3. The two countries sponsoring the conference, particularly U.S. Secretary of States James Baker, are committed to the process. This became clear in Baker's speech at the final session yesterday when he said that there is a three-sided equation that forms the framework for the work and solution: peace, security, and land. We believe that Baker's words are a strong and a direct message to Israel, namely that it cannot exist as a state outside international law, ignore the fact that there is a new world order which has begun to redraw the map of the world, and that all must be committed to live within its context.

4. Another important point is that Israel's margin for maneuvering has narrowed. Having boarded the peace train after long months of efforts on the part of Washington, any attempt to disembark from it would not be as easy as some believe because it would mean a confrontation with the United States.

Going back to our question about how to reach a solution amid all this conflict and tension, our answer is this: There are two factors that guarantee the success of the Madrid conference in all its stages: Egypt and the United States because of their status in the international arena and the credit due them for their preparations for the conference. This prompted Baker yesterday to praise President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's prominent efforts to give impetus to the peace process. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa clearly explained the Egyptian stand yesterday in Madrid when he said that Egypt's role is a unique one. Egypt is playing the role of observer and partner, it has good relations with all the parties, and is at the same time an Arab country which has pan-Arab commitments to the Palestinian people. Egypt also has past experience of negotiating with Israel. Therefore, Egypt will not hesitate to extend every possible assistance to all the parties in order to ensure the success of the process. This prompted Musa to ask Israel to present practical proposals that would form a common ground for reaching a just peace that would restore the land to its owners, ensure the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and provide security for all the parties to the conflict.

Paper Terms Madrid Conference 'Historic Landmark'

NC0311072691 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 3 Nov 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM writes that we have to note that the peace conference in Madrid is a historic landmark that will have far-reaching effects on the entire Middle East region.

Despite the talk about obstacles and difficulties in the way of peace, the convocation of the conference in itself means that peace has become possible and that earlier talk about its implausibility was untrue, since the conference is now a concrete reality. Arabs and Israelis sat face to face at the negotiating table for the first time in 43 years.

Those who thought the Arabs went to Madrid with no good negotiating cards to enable them to recover their lawful rights are mistaken; they are deliberately ignoring several factors strengthening the Arab negotiating position.

The paper adds that the Arabs went to Madrid supported by a long history of steadfast confrontation, which has succeeded since the outbreak of the Arab-Israeli conflict in preventing Israel from imposing its will on Arabs, notwithstanding the military victories that gave it the illusion that it could break Arab willpower as it did in June 1967. In 1973 Arabs proved to the Israelis and the entire world that they are equal rivals, capable of gaining victory in a showdown.

The paper says that Arabs, who are brought together by their sympathy with the Palestinian cause, went to Madrid supported by the great achievement of the intifadah, which proved to the world that no peace, security, or stability can be achieved unless the Palestinian people recover their legitimate rights in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Paper Criticizes Tehran Conference Recommendations

NC0511112391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0634 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR today criticizes a recent conference in Tehran that recommends forming an Islamic army of 5 million fighters to restore Palestine by force and voices opposition to the Madrid peace conference and negotiations with the Israeli enemy.

The paper says that those who have so imaginatively found this brilliant solution to the Palestinian issue have unfortunately failed to suggest how to mobilize, house, train, and provide weapons to these millions of fighters. The parties also failed to determine how much time will be needed to prepare this army and by what roads it will advance on Israel.

Ridiculing the conference call, AL-AKHBAR says: We hope that the leaders who devised this plan are not counting on occupying Arab countries on their way to liberate Palestine, as Saddam Husayn did Kuwait.

The paper concludes: Those who issued the call are dealing lightly with situations that need them to be serious and aware of the Arab people.

Hungarian Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

NC0411161591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1459 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and his wife arrived in Cairo this afternoon on an official three-day visit at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Meets With Sidqi

NC0411221091 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Sidqi has met with Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, who arrived in Cairo this afternoon. After the meeting, Dr. Sidqi said that the Hungarian prime minister's visit is an opportunity to discuss all political and economic topics between the two countries. He added that Egypt will work to consolidate its relations with Hungary, relations which he described as good and strong in all areas.

Sidqi said that during the visit Egypt and Hungary will exchange views on current world developments, especially the Madrid peace conference, and will discuss economic and trade cooperation.

Official Talks Open

NC0511120991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0942 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—The Egyptian-Hungarian talks under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and his Hungarian counterpart, Jozsef Antall, opened this morning at the cabinet's headquarters. The two prime ministers held a brief meeting at Dr. Sidqi's office, then joined the members of the two delegations in the conference room. The Egyptian delegation includes the ministers of economy, finance, justice, culture, education, cabinet affairs and environment, People's Assembly affairs, and international cooperation, Foreign Ministry experts, and the head of the Taxation Department. The Hungarian delegation includes the ministers of environment, public sector, international economic relations, culture, and education, and the Hungarian ambassador in Cairo.

Libya

Sudan's General al-Bashir Arrives for Visit

LD0211163391 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, al-Harth [November] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Revolutionary Presidential Council in Sudan, and the delegation in his company arrived in Tripoli this morning.

A massive official welcoming ceremony, headed by Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir, for General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir was mounted at Tripoli International Airport.

Taking part in the welcoming ceremony were the secretary and members of the Secretariat of the General People's Congress, a number of secretaries of the General People's Committee, the secretary for the affairs of integration with Sudan, officers of the armed people, the secretary of the people's committee for the municipality of Tripoli and Arab ambassadors accredited to Great Jamahiriyah.

As soon as General al-Bashir descended from his aircraft he was warmly embraced by Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir expressing the fraternal cohesion between the Arab people of Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Sudan. After this, General al-Bashir, accompanied by Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir, headed for the honourary stand to inspect the guard of honour who stood in salute while 21 gun salute were fired welcoming General Al-Bashir who then shook hands with the members of the welcoming party.

General al-Bashir made a statement to journalists at Tripoli International Airport in which he said "this visit to our country Jamahiriyah comes within the framework of continued consultation between the leadership of Jamahiriyah and Sudan especially at these sensitive circumstances the Arab nation is going through."

General al-Bashir is accompanied in this visit by Bakri Hasan Salah, member of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council and 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Hamdi, the minister of finance and national economy.

Meets With Officials

LD0311145691 Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, 'Ol-Harth [November] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—An enlarged meeting was held last night in Tripoli between Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud and General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council.

Taking part in the meeting were Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir as well as the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Operation, the secretary for the Affairs of Integration in Sudan, and the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau to Sudan.

Also taking part in the meeting were Bakri Hasin Salih, member of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council, 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Hamdi the minister of finance, the director of the Sudanese oil company, and the Sudanese ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah.

Meets With al-Qadhdhafi

LD0311150191 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, 3 November—The brother leader of the revolution has received General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] and prime minister in fraternal Sudan, in the presence of Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir and brother Bakri Hasin Salih, member of the Sudanese RCC.

Attends Banquet Hosted by Jallud

LD0311164191 Tripoli JANA in English 1417 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, al-Harth [November] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salim Jallud last night held a dinner banquet in honour of General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council, and the delegation in his company.

Present at the banquet were Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir as well as the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, the secretary for the affairs of integration with Sudan, the secretary of the Libyan Arab brotherhood bureau to Sudan, and the Sudanese ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah.

Concludes Visit

LD0411123791 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Excerpt] General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and prime minister in fraternal Sudan, left Tripoli this morning with his accompanying delegation at the end of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir was seen off at Tripoli International Airport by Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir. [passage omitted]

Yugoslav Macedonian President Arrives in Tripoli

LD0311083291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0725 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Nov, JANA—Kiro Gligorov, president of the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli last night. They were greeted upon arrival by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Training.

Discusses Cooperation With Officials

LD0311142391 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Talks were held this morning in Tripoli to examine the prospects of cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Macedonian Republic, one of the Yugoslav republics. The session was attended by Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov, brother secretary of vocational training, and a number of technicians and experts from the Great Jamahiriyah and the Macedonian Republic. The meeting dealt with ways of consolidating the prospects of cooperation in various fields between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Macedonian Republic.

Gligorov and his accompanying delegation paid a visit this morning to the house of the brother leader of the revolution, where he reviewed the marks of the barbaric fascist U.S.-Atlanticist aggression. In a speech he wrote in the visitors' book, he condemned that aggression. He said: What we have seen will remain inscribed in the people's memory.

Ends Visit, Departs Tripoli

LD0311172891 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Kiro Glikorov, president of the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, left Tripoli today at the end of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He was given a big send-off. Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir headed those who saw him off. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Media Term Madrid Conference 'Starting Point'

LD0211092491 Rabat MAP in English 1327 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 1 (MAP)—Moroccan media largely commented on the Madrid peace conference as a "historical event" and as the starting point of "an irreversible process towards peace and towards the recognition of an Arab Palestinian state".

The Moroccan media which conceded that the task will not be easy and that a full success is not for tomorrow, pointed out that the psychological conditions prevailing at present, the new relations between Washington and Moscow and the evolution of international policy at large are all elements prompting optimism.

For the Moroccan media, the Madrid conference will either establish peace through "the shortest possible way" or it will go astray from the peace path and disappoint all those who are aspiring to put an end to the Middle East crisis, which lasted for too long.

It pointed out that the path to peace is clear if international legality is respected.

PLO's 'Arafat Confers With King Hassan II

LD3110140191 Rabat MAP in English 1214 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Text] Marrakesh, Oct. 30 (MAP)—President of the state of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat conferred here Wednesday evening with King Hassan II.

'Arafat, who arrived here earlier Wednesday, said that on such a day, which is vitally and historically important for the future of the peace process in the Mideast region, it was necessary for him to come to Morocco for talks with King Hassan II, not only as king of Morocco but also as current chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA/gathering Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) and chairman of the al-Quds committee.

The Madrid conference is vitally important for Arabs, Palestinians, Muslims and Christians, said 'Arafat, pointing however to certain maneuvers that seek to overshadow the al-Quds issue and put on the second burner the principles on which rely actions of Muslims, Christians, Arabs and Palestinians.

'Arafat also believed UMA leaders contribute positively at the level of the Madrid conference to the support of their Palestinian and Arab brothers directly involved in the Mideast conflict.

The Palestinian president is accompanied during this visit by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political department, 'Abdallah Nurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Abu Sharif, adviser to 'Arafat.

'Arafat was received at the airport by Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, Moulay Ahmed Alaoui, minister of state without portfolio, and Abou Marouane, representative of the state of Palestine in Morocco.

Attends Banquet

LD0111221891 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 30 Oct 91

[Text] King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, received this evening at the royal palace in Marrakech Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the state of Palestine. He was accompanied by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; 'Abdallah al-Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir Arafat's political advisor and PLO official spokesman; and Abu-Marwan, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Morocco. The noble monarch had tete-a-tete talks with Mr. Yasir 'Arafat. Following that, King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, gave a dinner banquet in honor of his excellency the president of the state of Palestine. It was attended by, in addition to the Palestinian delegation, Ahmed Osman, speaker of the House of Representatives; Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation; his majesty's advisors Ahmed Reda Guedira and Mohamed Aouad; and Driss Basri, minister of interior and information.

Departs 31 Oct

LD3110141291 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Text] Palestinian President Mr. Yasir 'Arafat left this morning from Menara-Marrakesh Airport.

He was seen off at the airport by Mr. Abdellatif Filali and a number of dignitaries.

Sudan

Garang Fires SPLA's London Spokesman

AB0311070591 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 1 Nov 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The repercussions of the split in the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, SPLA, have now reached the SPLA office in London. In September, SPLA commanders Lam Akol and Riek Machar, who are in eastern Sudan, said John Garang had been ousted as SPLA leader because of his dictatorial style and the forced drafting of young boys into his forces. Garang scoffed the claim and insisted that he was still in charge. Well, now the SPLA's London spokesman, John Luke, who has been critical of John Garang, has received a telegram giving him the sack. Robin White asked John Luke what the telegram said:

[Begin recording] [Luke] Well, this telegram says that he has transferred me to his headquarters in Equatoria and that I must report there not later than the 11th of next month, and that he has suspended me from Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] activities and that I should not talk on behalf of the SPLM/SPLA. This is content of the latest telegram. There are other telegrams, too.

[White] Now what are you going to do? Are you going to go back home as commanded?

[Luke] No. First of all, John Garang has no authority to call me to where he is. In the first place, he is not the overall leader of the movement. At best, he a factional leader, and the reason why he is angry and calling me is simply that I express a view which is contrary to what he expected. He expected to use me to further his policies but I refused and I am toeing the correct line with the new leadership, which is the popular leadership.

[White] So what will you now do?

[Luke] I am still the SPLA/SPLM spokesman in this country. This has also been confirmed by the new leadership and that is why I continue to speak for the SPLM...

[White, interrupting] Do you have an office here in London? Are you now fighting for control over this office?

[Luke] Well, that is their [word indistinct] but I am not for a small crisis over an office. After all, the whole thing is just a telephone, having a telephone in it and so...

[White, interrupting] So you have now abandoned this office, have you?

[Luke] We [changes thought] Up till now, I am still there, but in the long run I would want to abandon it because I don't think it is really civilized to just fight over a small office that has nothing really in it.

[White] Now, what do you think of your sacking by Garang and also, I understand, another rather external (?force)? People have been [word indistinct]...

[Luke, interrupting] Yes...

[White, interrupting] Would you see that as a sign that reconciliation between the two factions is now [changes thought] ...the chances of that are now very, very small indeed, or not?

[Luke] I think, well, not particularly because of the sacking but already the chance was not there. Over the weekend there had been fighting in (Kejukaji) between forces loyal to the new leadership and forces loyal to him as one of the commanders loyal to him tried to disarm those forces. And I understand there was a shootout for five hours. Also another area of fiction is Bor itself, where there had been fighting between Kumor and Bor; and Kumor, which is his home town, is in the hands of the forces loyal to the new leadership. He is desperate; he wants to capture it. The people, (?apparently), in the forces have refused to fight and William Nyuan [Bany] has returned now to Torit. But then he is now collecting soldiers who originally come from Wad al Basal and he is trying to use them to go and fight in Bor, whereas he is keeping the leaders of Wad al Basal, most of them, in detention. [end recording]

Al-Bashir Comments Upon Return From Libya

EA0411214591 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Lieutenant General Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has said that his Libyan visit included mutual discussions between the two leaderships. In a statement upon his arrival in Khartoum this afternoon, his excellency said that the talks encompassed regional, bilateral, and international relations.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir announced that the Sudanese and Libyan Governments were fully aware of the course of the integration projects. He pointed out that there was full agreement on making plans with a view to exploiting Sudan's agricultural potential to meet the countries' needs and to produce surplus for export. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir ended his statement by emphasizing that there was a full convergence of views.

Projects Promote Integration With Libya

EA0511111591 Khartoum SUNA in English 0907 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Nov (SUNA)—The Sudanese-Libyan integration procession is progressing ahead steadily as planned, announced here Sunday [3 November] Dr Faruq al-Bushra, secretary-general of the Sudanese-Libyan Arab integration. Dr al-Bushra noted that intensive move is being exerted these days to drop up the integration steps as soon in the full support extended by Maj-Gen al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] and alternate chairman of integration ministerial committee. [sentence as received]

The coming period of time will witness the lay down of the foundation stone of the Khartoum-Ailafoun highway, the highway of al-Qadhdhafi, the internationalist leader, and completion of the final touches to found the Nile International Bank, stated Dr al-Bushra. He added that the Arab-Libyan Company for Development and Investment had approved in its meetings Saturday, a number of integrative projects.

Pact on Religious Cooperation Signed With Iraq

EA0311204591 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3rd November (SUNA)—The Sudan and Iraq signed in Baghdad Saturday [2 November] an agreement on cooperation between the two countries in the field of religious affairs and endowments. Orientation and Guidance Minister, 'Abdallah Deng Niyal, who is currently here on a visit to Iraq, signed for the Sudan and Iraqi Religious Affairs and Endowments Minister 'Abdallah Fadil ['Abbas] signed for his country. Niyal hailed the struggle of the Iraqi people under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn to confront plots targeting the Islamic faith.

Saudi Arabia

Kingdom Denies Funding Anti-Palestinian Groups

LD0411194291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1825 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Jeddah, 4 Nov (SPA)—Responding to allegations in some Western Sunday newspapers claiming that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia financed anti-Palestinian terrorist organizations, an official source told SPA today that these accusations directed against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are absolutely unfounded.

King Supports Madrid Talks, Palestinian Cause

LD0411201691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Excerpts] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, chaired a Council of Ministers' meeting at Al-Salam Palace today. After the meeting, His Excellency Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA that the council first reviewed all the political reports presented by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, in light of the reports his highness received from Madrid on the progress of the international peace conference, the bilateral meetings and talks which followed, and an assessment of the results achieved so far.

The information minister added: In this context, the custodian of the two holy mosques clarified the role played by the Kingdom and the efforts it has made so that the peace conference can achieve its desired goals and expected positive results. The king praised the intensive efforts made by His Excellency President George Bush and His Excellency President Mikhail Gorbachev aimed at ensuring the success of the conference and the bilateral talks. He also praised U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin for their efforts and their successful running of the conference, which is appreciated by everyone.

The beloved king also lauded the efforts made by the Arab leaderships and the historic political speeches delivered by the heads of the Arab delegations at the opening of the international peace conference. [passage omitted]

The beloved king said: We are continuing our efforts, with the cooperation of our brethren and friends, to support the Palestinian cause until the Palestinian people achieve their just and legitimate rights on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338. We believe that the convening of the peace conference in Madrid is, in fact, one of the most major historic achievements for the Middle East, and we hope that the Arab and international efforts will continue hand-in-hand toward a lasting, comprehensive, and just peace in this region. [passage omitted]

Prince 'Abdallah Contacts al-Asad, Mubarak

LD0111224591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2140 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Nov (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, heir apparent, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, talked with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic and His Excellency President Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt by telephone this evening.

SPA has learned that they exchanged points of view on the preliminary results of the first phase of the international peace conference proceedings which ended today in Madrid. In this context, Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz praised the speech delivered by the Syrian delegation and the successful speech delivered by the Egyptian delegation.

His highness expressed hope that the conference will lead to a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region once the Palestinian people have obtained their legitimate rights in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

France's Dumas Conveys Mitterrand Message to King

LD0211212291 Riyadh SPA in English 1924 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Jeddah, Nov. 2, SPA—The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz received here today a message from French President Francois Mitterrand.

The message was delivered to the Saudi monarch by visiting French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas during their meeting at the Salam Palace here today.

The meeting was attended by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, King Fahd's adviser Ibrahim al-Anqari and the French ambassador to the Kingdom.

Dumas arrived here earlier today and was received at the airport by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Comments on Talks With King

LD0411092991 Riyadh SPA in English 1950 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Jeddah, Nov. 3, SPA—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has stated here that the message he conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, from the French President Francois Mitterrand on Saturday deals with ways to bolster the bilateral relations between the two countries and the current situation in the region.

Speaking to reporters before his departure last night and carried by AFP, Dumas said he discussed with King Fahd the situation in the Arab Gulf region particularly matters concerning the compliance of the Iraqi regime to

the Security Council resolutions. He termed his talks with King Fahd as fruitful and useful and declared that King Fahd will visit France.

Meanwhile, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, made [word indistinct] that the kingdom is supporting the peace efforts in the Middle East. He said Israel should show a desire for finding a peaceful solution in the region after the Arab states had shown such desire by attending the Madrid conference.

King Receives Speaker of Kuwait National Council

LD0411060191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Excerpts] The custodion of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, received at al-Salam Palace last night Kuwaiti National Council Speaker 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Msa'id and his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud made an extemporaneous speech during the reception, and the speaker of the Kuwaiti National Council also spoke.

'Abd al-Aziz Al-Msa'id and his delegation arrived in Jeddah earlier yesterday. [passage omitted]

Speaks on Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait

LD0411231691 Riyadh SPA in English 1945 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Jeddah, Nov 4, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz today expressed dismay and deep regret over Iraq's vicious invasion of Kuwait and said "such aggression was not expected at all from a neighbour who had been rendered every possible moral and material support from us."

In an extempore speech during a reception of the speaker of the Kuwaiti National Council, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Msa'id and his accompanying delegation at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah earlier today, King Fahd expressed pleasure over meeting the Kuwaiti delegation following a critical period undergone by the two countries.

Until the last moment, the Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister and the vice Iraqi president met in this country with the hope that the problems claimed by Iraq would be ended amicably, the king told the delegation.

Referring to his past relationship with the Iraqi ruler, King Fahd expressed regret that he thought the matter was nothing but a friendly issue. "However, the Iraqi ruler turned it to be a conspiracy and a trick," the Saudi monarch said.

He informed the delegation about the untold shock he had felt when he had learned first about the news of the Iraqi invasion on Thursday, August 2, 1990.

At that moment, King Fahd said he could not believe what he had heard until he was assured by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, the minister of defense, aviation and inspector general, and the Saudi Embassy in Kuwait, that it was the Iraqi forces who had invaded Kuwait and not any other party.

It was really an incredible surprise and a disaster when we knew that the invasion came from the Iraqi forces, whom we had once supported with up-to-date self-defense weapons.

No one could have imagined that border, petroleum or material claims would be settled by force. Moreover, all matters had been arranged for the occupation of Kuwait, to be followed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, King Fahd said.

He briefed the delegation on his early attempts to contain the crisis by contacting the Iraqi president, but his efforts had not reached any results because he had been first informed that the whereabouts of the Iraqi president were not known, then after half an hour he had been told that Saddam was resting outside with no telephone at his residence.

"When we understood what had been taking place, I had contacted Prince Sultan for undertaking arrangements over what could be done. And when Saddam contacted me later in that morning, he only told me that he was sending his deputy, 'Izzat Ibrahim, to explain the matter, but during the meeting which was attended by Crown Prince 'Abdallah, the Iraqi envoy told me that what had happened was a normal thing and that a part of Iraq had returned and refused to go beyond this saying he was not authorized to speak any more," the king said.

King Fahd said that history will remember Saddam Husayn as the worst-ever Iraqi leader.

Referring to the Arab summit conference held in Baghdad before the regrettable events, King Fahd said he, and perhaps Shaykh Jabir, noticed a radical change in Saddam's words and behavior, despite the great courtesy he had shown towards him (King Fahd).

Before the invasion, the king said, Saddam had been accustomed to complain that Kuwait and the UAE (with a hint to Saudi Arabia without mentioning it by name) had made offenses in terms of oil production and prices, and that they could cause damage for Iraq.

King Fahd said he was never thinking that the Iraqi hints would escalate to an extent to what had really happened afterwards.

He referred to the Iraqi claims over al-Rumaylah oil field and the Iraqi demands for financial reparations from Kuwait over the exploitation of the field and said Saddam had dispatched Sa'dun Hammadi to explain the matter to him despite the fact that talks with his envoy (Hammadi) were useless.

The Saudi monarch said he had rejected a proposal put forward by the Iraqi official for a sunimit conference between the Gulf oil producing countries in the

Kingdom to discuss the matter and told him that any such meeting, if ever to take place, should be held within the OPEC's framework.

The king stated that Saddam had assured him twice that the military mobilizations were merely for training purposes, adding that he had made similar assurances to the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak, when he visited Baghdad afterwards and before the Jeddah meeting which Saddam had proposed before the Egyptian president.

King Fahd explained the details of the Jeddah meeting between the Kuwaiti and the Iraqi delegations and he blessed a suggestion that the meeting would be resumed in Baghdad on Saturday. On the next day of the meeting, Thursday, the Saudi monarch said the invasion took place.

"Moreover, when Saddam had decided to invade Kuwait, he knew very well that Kuwait is Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabia is Kuwait. But, he was thinking that the Kingdom would not dare face the Iraqi tremendous military force if he carried out the invasion," the king said.

"In the light of a huge military force that invaded Kuwait in terms of military equipments and personnel, the Kingdom contacted Arab and friendly leaders to contain the matter.

When the Kingdom kept silence for some days after the invasion, some people thought that the Kingdom was trying to find a way out, but that was not true. The Kingdom was in fact working out arrangements to face the crisis and then I had contacted the leaders of the U.S., Britain, France and the Arab states for helping the Kingdom, a call which had found a positive and swift response, and they supported the Kingdom with every possible weapons and human resources," King Fahd said.

King Fahd condemned the oppressive practices commited by the Iraqi invading forces in Kuwait.

King Fahd told the delegation that he was feeling confident that Saddam would lose the battle and that the coalition forces will win, God willing—thanks to the firmness and determination demonstrated from the very first moment to bring about liberation of Kuwait at any price after Saddam had snubbed all appeals to pull out from Kuwait.

King Fahd cited the untold damage done to Kuwait and its people as a result of the criminal invasion.

"However, matters had gone the way, which is known to all of you earlier, I had told the Amir, Shaykh Jabir, that I have a feeling that I would visit him in Kuwait shortly, God willing," the king said.

The Saudi monarch highlighted the courageous and wise behavior undertaken by Shaykh Jabir during the crisis.

King Fahd said despite the previous attempts made by the Iraqi leaders in the past to launch an aggression on Kuwait, yet what had happened from the side of Saddam Husayn was not expected at all in view of his artificial friendship with the Kuwaiti people.

"Even when our relations with him were at their peak, he (Saddam) was trying to induce Kuwaitis that Saudi Arabia is their biggest enemy and that he is their best friend," the king said.

King Fahd told the audience that the Kingdom was convinced that it will be the next target if matters went on smoothly in Kuwait.

He ridiculed Saddam's suggestions to leaders who mediated the crisis that the problem would be solved if he met with them. Saddam, with such a suggestion, was only planning for propaganda and nothing else, the Saudi monarch said.

The king referred to his visit to Iraq before the events and briefed the audience on the non-aggression agreement which Saddam determined to sign with the Kingdom and said, afterwards, he discovered that the agreement was nothing but a trick.

King Fahd said the decision he had undertaken to deal with the Kuwaiti invasion and occupation of Kuwait reflects the fact that the relationship between Kuwait and the Kingdom is a relation of a common fate forever, and that the matter endures no retreat or weakness of any kind.

King Fadh recalled with pride the historical stand undertaken by the late Shaykh Mubarak al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti people when Kuwait hosted late Imam 'Abd-al-Rahman in the past.

"History, blood, race and common fate stipulate that the two countries should combine in life and death. No one could ever separate us and the rest of the Gulf states," the king stated.

King Fahd highlighted the marvelous assistances rendered by the Arab Gulf states for Arab and Islamic states and peoples, even during the hard times witnessed by the Kingdom and other Gulf states in the past.

The Saudi monarch expressed delight that the last Kuwaiti burning oil field will be extinguished on next Wednesday and said it is ironic that the fire be extinguished the same day the crisis had broken out. [sentence as received]

He urged Arab and Islamic nations to get a valuable lesson from what had happened. He highlighted the deep-rooted and family ties between the Kuwaiti and Saudi peoples.

King Fahd thanked the Almighty God that Kuwait had been liberated from the vicious invasion after difficult months undergone by the entire region.

Speaking on the occasion, al-Msa'id thanked King Fahd and the Saudi people for the courageous and brotherly stands with the Kuwaiti leadership and people throughout the crisis.

He thanked the Kingdom for its unlimited moral and material support to the Kuwaiti people and government and expressed hope that ties of friendship and brotherhood between the two countries would remain stronger under the wise leaderships of the two countries.

Moroccan Prime Minister Arrives in Jeddah

LD2910150991 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, held a banquet this afternoon in honor of Azzedine Laraki, prime minister of the fraternal Kingdom of Morocco. Princes, ministers, and senior civilian and military officials attended the banquet.

Laraki arrived in Jeddah this afternoon. He was welcomed at the King Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz. [passage omitted]

Received by King Fahd

LD2910175491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 29 Oct (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, received today at his office in al-Salam Palace Moroccan Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki, who conveyed to him a message from his brother King Hassan II, the king of Morocco. [passage omitted]

Press Comments on Israel's Stand at Conference

Deplores Shamir's Speech

LD0211134191 Riyadh SPA in English 1253 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 2, SPA—Saudi newspapers today deplored the rigid stand of the Israeli prime minister at the international peace conference, which ended its deliberations in Madrid yesterday.

The Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said the speech of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at the conference had showed no change in the Israeli thinking.

It does not seem that the Zionist entity will accept the principle of land in exchange of peace, the daily added.

On the contrary, it said speeches delivered by the Syrian, Jordanian, Palestinian and Lebanese delegates had reiterated inalienable and historical Arab rights and made it clear that 'peace could not coexist with usurpation of others' lands.'

For its part, the Jeddah-based AL-MADINA said Israel had been dreaming of the Arab recognition of the Zionist entity for the past three decades. Probably, it was believed that with such a recognition by the Arabs, Israel would subsequently announce its readiness to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and give up its expansionst policy. But, it has now become very clear that the Israelis will not accept barter in the light of Shamir's speech in Madrid.

The new international order, which has emerged following the end of the cold war era, has remarkably diminished Israel's strategic importance, the paper said.

On the same topic, the Jeddah-based OKAZ said the walkout of Israeli Prime Minister Shamir before the end of the session has provided a clear evidence of the arrogance of the Israeli prime minister and reflects his determination to undermine the peace conference.

Shamir, no doubt, provides the best example of terrorism and intransigence, the daily said.

It noted calls made by the Soviet and U.S. foreign ministers in Madrid in which they urged Israel to shoulder its responsibility before the international community which has chosen the path of peace.

Israel cannot say that all the people with the exception of the Israelis are mad, the paper added.

On the other hand, the Dammam-based AL-YAUM said Shamir's speech reflects the Zionist entity's indifference on bringing about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Israel, which is still dreaming of hegemony in the region, does not want to recognize the inalienable rights of the Palestinians including their right to establish their independent state on their homeland. Shamir is determined to defy the international community and give deaf ears to the Resolutions 242 and 338 adopted by the U.N. Security Council.

Regrets Israel's 'Irrational Approach'

LD0311154391 Riyadh SPA in English 1249 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 3, SPA—Saudi newspapers today commented on the outcome of the international peace conference, which ended its deliberations last Friday in Madrid, and regretted Israel's irrational approach and rigid stand against peace postures of the Arabs in the Middle East region.

The Jeddah-based AL-MADINA deplored the provocative acts of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at the conference.

It criticized Shamir's irresponsible departure before the end of the conference in Madrid.

'On top of this arrogant behavior, Shamir has started escalating military operations in south Lebanon and

imposing repressive measures against the Palestinians in the occupied territories,' the paper added.

The international community will not tolerate undermining of the peace conference by Israel, the paper said.

For its part, OKAZ, which is also published in Jeddah, said the Madrid conference has no doubt provided a good opportunity for bringing about peace in the Middle East.

The paper underlined the importance of coordination among the Arabs so as to present their cause rationally and plainly.

The Arabs went to Madrid not to give up their legitimate rights but they went there to reiterate their just cause, said the daily.

The Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said the political observers and analysts believe that the Arabs had addressed the conference in a reasonable manner and surely better than Israel.

Shamir's speech at the conference reflects a utopian Israeli dream to establish the greater Israel at the expense of the Arab territories, the paper said. It had become quite clear that the Israeli delegation came to Madrid not to seek peace but to implant maneuvers, the paper added.

The Dammam-based AL-YAUM said all concerned parties in the Middle East with the exception of Israel are genuinely keen on realization of peace in the region.

It is now very clear that the U.S. and the Soviet Union are determined to make the peace process successful in line with the initiative presented by U.S. President George Bush and the resolutions adopted by the U.N. Security Council, said the daily.

The U.S. Administration and the Soviet Government are keen on realization of peace on three bases: coexistence among the countries of the region, sovereignty and independence, and secured borders, the daily noted.

At the first stage of the conference, the Arabs have shown flexibility and keenness to realise peace while the Israelis demonstrated open arrogance and intransigence, the daily said.

AL-RIYADH newspaper said the Middle East region has been involved in a bitter conflict between the Arabs who fight for a just cause and the Israelis who claim historical rights in Palestine.

The Arabs should address the international community rationally and clearly, said the paper underlining the importance of self-restraint.

Highlighting the significant role that might be played by the United Nations in the current peace process, the daily said 'we have learned a good lesson from the Gulf war last year: the United Nations and the Security Council under the auspices of the big powers are capable of playing a decisive role in the peace process.'

Yemen

President Receives French Ministers Dumas, Lang

JN0111154091 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has received French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Minister of Culture Jack Lang, who are currently visiting our country, along with the delegation accompanying them. Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas also attended the meeting.

At the outset of the meeting, Minister Dumas conveyed a message to the brother president from French President Francois Mitterrand. The message dealt with bilateral relations, various fields of cooperation, and ways to promote them in the interest of the two friendly countries. The message also dealt with international developments and issues, particularly the Madrid peace conference and the efforts being exerted to achieve peace in the region.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations, various fields of cooperation, and ways of promoting them. They also exchanged views on issues of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, the brother president and the French foreign minister met with representatives of the Yemeni and French press and news media and with correspondents from Arab and other foreign news agencies.

Responding to a question on the nature of the talks he held with Roland Dumas, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: I discussed relations between Yemen and France with the French foreign minister. France's relations with Yemen are excellent. We have cultural, political, and economic cooperation with our French friends. We greatly appreciate the Yemeni-French relations. We have common interests with France. Bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest also were discussed, including the peace conference currently being held in Madrid.

The brother president said that the Republic of Yemen views with respect and appreciation the French support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. He said that Yemen highly appreciates the French position.

Answering a question by the correspondent of French Television's Channel 2 with regard to Yemeni-Saudi relations, the brother president noted that our relations with our neighbor, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, are relations between neighbors and brothers, and that Yemen has no problem with its neighbors. He pointed

out that there has been some slackness in these relations, particularly following the Gulf crisis.

Brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih added: As for reaching any agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, there is nothing worth mentioning to sign any agreement on. He said that the pending issue between Yemen and Saudi Arabia is the border issue. He noted that this is a longstanding issue that is still under discussion. He added that in its statement before the House of Representatives after unity, the Yemeni Government announced that it is fully ready to discuss the border issue with the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman under normal relations. He clarified that this announcement was made following the unity of Yemen and the unification of political decisionmaking. [passage omitted including indistinct portion]

Agreement Signed

JN0111151991 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Text] A Yemeni-French round of talks was held today at the Foreign Ministry. The session was co-chaired by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations, regional developments, and peace efforts to resolve the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the progress of Yemeni-French relations and the great similarity of views on regional, Arab, and international issues. They also asserted the importance of continuing consultation, coordination, and cooperation on all issues that serve global peace, security, and stability.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the two ministers signed an agreement for cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation. The ceremony was attended by brother Hasan al-Lawzi, minister of culture and tourism, and Jack Lang, French minister of culture.

The French ministers of foreign affairs and culture arrived in Sanaa this morning. During their visit to our country, they will meet with Yemeni officials and attend several joint activities.

Saddam Receives 'Arafat Message on Palestine

JN0411135291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1336 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from his brother Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat dealing with the latest developments of the Palestine question.

The message was delivered by PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud Isma'il, Abu-Isma'il, when the president received him today.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister.

Israeli Claim on Iraq's Nuclear Program Refuted

JN0111145791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, organ of the Defense Ministry, has said that the statements made yesterday by Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu represent a message to the parties at the Madrid conference that discussion of armaments in the Middle East does not include Israel but does include Iraq and every Arab state trying to possess nuclear technology.

In its editorial today, the paper links Israel's attempts to blow information on Iraq's nuclear program all out of proportion with the goals which the United States and its allies wanted to achieve from the aggression they carried out against Iraq at the beginning of this year.

The paper says that claims that Iraq was about to produce nuclear and hydrogen bombs are part of the attempts to strip Iraq of its scientific capability and to impose trusteeship on the minds and technological creativity of the Iraqi people in order to keep them in the abyss of backwardness.

Netanyahu accused Iraq and President Saddam Husayn not only of trying to produce a nuclear bomb, but also of producing a hydrogen bomb, claiming that Iraq's goal is to destroy Israel.

AL-QADISIYAH quotes the Israeli official as saying that if there is a problem with proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East, then those who hint or announce that they possess and will use these weapons should be dealt with. This is a threat not only against Israel, he said, but against the entire world and should be dealt with quickly.

The paper concentrates on the ideas implied in Netanyahu's above-mentioned call, saying: He wants to tell the parties to the Madrid conference that Israel's nuclear paws will remain safe and that discussions should focus on stripping the Arabs of their expertise in nuclear technology, especially Iraq, in order to turn their countries into disarmed villages at the mercy of Israel's conventional and nuclear weapons.

The newspaper describes the statements of the Israeli deputy foreign minister as allegations based only on a number of detestable, exposed lies. It denies anew that Iraq has a nuclear armament program and says that Iraq's program is built only for peaceful purposes.

The paper regrets the fact that the International Atomic Energy Agency has bowed to the U.S. Administration's will and instructions. It says: That organization had asserted the peaceful nature of the Iraqi nuclear program before it bowed to Washington.

The paper also draws attention to the reality and extent of the nuclear program Israel is concealing. It says: Tel Aviv refuses to join the Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Treaty and to open its nuclear installations for inspection by authorized international inspection bodies.

Syria's Multilateral Talks Rejection 'Propaganda'

JN2310174891 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1610 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, Israel has obtained the best conditions according to Zionist Foreign minister David Levi. What does this mean? It does not mean that the United States was not generous with Tel Aviv, or was opposing it and not meeting its demands. It means that the United States has taken from the Arabs who accepted, and from the eager and enthusiastic Arabs as put by the head of regime in Egypt, what it did not expect to take that easily and what the Zionists did not expect that quickly. Therefore, the great satisfaction of the Zionist minister is due to the additional things he obtained through U.S. Secretary Baker from the known Arabs.

This is the clearest and ugliest fact that emerges now, even before the conference convenes. Thus, the convening of the conference will only be ceremonial and will concentrate on the formalities and the propaganda that will need extraordinary efforts.

Consequently, there is no value to the Syrian regime's new position, which falls in the direction of the formalities and propaganda. When that regime accepts meeting the Zionists without conditions, as they wanted, and when it accepts bilateral talks on the basis that the Golan Heights is an issue between the two, then there is no justification to reject or importance in rejecting the multilateral meeting to discuss the other issues, like water and economy.

The Syrian ruler wants to move forward to the conference with a little clamor that would, as he thinks, distinguish him from those who are going and make him appear the most difficult of all, not for any reason other than the needs of the propaganda required for the post-conference phase.

Naturally, the regime that crawls to capitulation will not fail to use all justifications and excuses to continue its crawling. This has happened in the past, it is still happening, and will happen again in the future. The regime knows that it cannot violate the orders of the masters, who have done favors for it. It also knows that the Tel Aviv entity's need for water has made it steal it by force, without waiting for the conference and the collective meeting, which Damascus regime now pretends it does not want.

After all, what would the justification be after recognizing usurpation and accepting it in the region. Thus, it is an exposed move. It may also have been agreed upon in order to cover the days between now and the conference, where all reservations will fail, after all pretenses of modesty, and everything else, have been cast off.

The same goes for the Egyptian regime, which insists on distinguishing itself, to the lowest point, with the services it offers and which moves forward without any reservations or need to cover. Even now, and before anything has emerged, it talks about the historic opportunity which must not be missed and about a future historic phase which must be received like a wedding procession.

Grave for Soldiers 'Buried Alive' Said Discovered

JN0411194891 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The competent authorities in Dhi Qar governorate have discovered a mass grave of Iraqi soldiers buried alive in their defensive trenches by U.S. forces. The grave contains bodies of more than 40 martyrs, most of them completely mutilated, and others whose corpses were torn apart. The grave is situated 50 km to the south of al-Nasiriyah, on the side of the al-Nasiriyah-al-Basrah highway.

An INA correspondent in Dhi Qar accompanied the competent authorities to the mass grave and reported that he saw the bodies of Iraqi martyrs buried by the American forces. They were subjected to the ugliest forms of inhumane crimes, he said.

Minister Answers U.S. Paper on Food Distribution

JN0311163391 Baghdad INA in English 1610 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 3, INA—Iraqi Health Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id said that turning health centres into outlets for distributing food as demanded by some relief organizations would prevent those centres from offering the necessary medical and health services to the citizens.

In a statement to INA, the minister was replying to a report in this regard published by THE NEW YORK TIMES newspaper and inquired about the determination to use the health centres for this purpose while there are other practical outlets designed by the Trade Ministry for the distribution of food. He pointed out that involving health centres with such tasks would obstruct their work adding that distribution of food is beyond the responsibility of the health institutions from the scientific point of view.

Further on Minister's Statement

JN0311170291 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Replying to the lies of the Voice of America, which aired a report published by THE NEW YORK TIMES this morning that the health institutions' duties are only to extend medical services to citizens and not to distribute foodstuffs, Health Minister Dr. 'Abd- al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id told INA today that health centers demanded by some relief agencies will not be outlets for distributing food as it prevents them from conducting their basic duties of preventive and remedial services for citizens. This was told to the international humanitarian and health organizations.

He added that making health centers distribute foodstuffs is part of a studied central plan to hamper the extension of such services. Here, we wonder: Why this insistence, as there are practical outlets for distributing food at the Ministry of Trade in accordance with the ration cards system for citizens. Thus, distribution can be carried out without affecting medical services.

He also referred to the assurances by health organizations of the existence of good cooperation to supply and distribute medicine and medical needs through health institutions. This does not promote the ministry's policy to support all efforts to provide citizens with medicine through medical channels. Food remains outside the responsibility of the health institutions from the scientific standpoint. The health minister said that on this occasion, we assert that the ministry is working to support efforts exerted by most humanitarian and health organizations to effectively distribute food to patients within the regular plan to distribute meals to patients in hospitals.

Saddam Reportedly Cuts Off Fuel Supplies to Kurds

LD0511140591 Hamburg DPA in German 1332 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Hamburg (DPA)—According to information from the aid organization "Cap Anamur," the Kurds in northern Iraq are having their supplies of oil, gasoline, and diesel cut off. "From the reports of our workers in northern Iraq, we have to conclude that the next attack by Saddam Husayn on the Kurds is imminent," Rupert Neudeck, president of the organization, said in Hamburg today.

Without oil and fuel, the whole infrastructure in the Kurdish area of Iraq will break down. "If we do not exert international pressure, the Kurds will suffer again," Neudeck stressed. "Cap Anamur" would leave its aid workers in northern Iraq. "I hope that they will not have to witness a new massacre," he added.

Shamir Briefs Knesset Committee on Madrid Talks

TA0411124991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1205 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Report by Knesset correspondent Yo'el Nir; recorded passages of Shamir's remarks are within quotation marks]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was the guest of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today, where he gave his first report on the Madrid conference to a nongovernmental forum.

For the first time in a long while, the prime minister managed to unite the Knesset behind him today and receive blessings all around. More to the point, the prime minister said that, contrary to what has been reported, the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will not separate. Issues pertaining to one of the elements of the joint delegation will be discussed within the framework of the joint delegation, and the pertinent party will be allowed to respond, he said.

Upon emerging from the meeting, the prime minister was asked whether the fact that the Palestinian delegation has been adopting an independent position means that progress in the process can be made even if Syria stays out. The prime minister linked the two issues: "First of all, we are talking about a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation; there is no separate Palestinian or Jordanian delegation. We recognize one delegation in this process: a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. True, disagreements occasionally crop up among the Arab elements—and we have seen as much. In and of itself, this is a good development because it prevents the establishment of a united Arab front against Israel. This should therefore be seen as a positive development. As for how long this will last, it is hard to guess today."

Referring to Syria, Mr. Shamir said: "The Syrians are very difficult, tough, and extreme, and they try to undermine any progress; however, they do not always succeed."

Asked about his relations with his deputy, David Levi, the prime minister said: "I hope all that needs mending will be mended."

The prime minister was relaxed and rested today and answered questions very patiently, just like a good teacher answering his students. He remained unfazed even when asked to comment on the Syrian foreign minister's accusations about his past. Here is his brief reply: "I will not say anything other than that I am proud of my past and that I do not owe anybody, certainly not Mr. al-Shar', any accounting for my actions."

Says 'Aspects of U.S. Policy' 'Harm Us'

TA0411143191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that Israel did not act against the United States, but cooperated with it. Nevertheless, Israel would not agree that a Pax Americana leads to iniquities such as a Palestinian state. There are aspects of U.S. policy that harm us and we will fight against them, Mr. Shamir told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

There are disputes even between friends, he said. The prime minister added that he was going to peace negotiations out of the belief that we must not yield any part of Eretz Yisra'el and that he would make sure the peace does not harm that conviction and the country's needs. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Mr. Shamir told the committee that he received a promise from Secretary Baker that the United States would not bring up its own proposals on the venue of the bilateral talks in the coming two weeks.

Calls Meeting With Egypt 'Stormy'

TA0411201391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Excerpts] In an appearance today before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Prime Minister Shamir said the conference was a historic event, but that it is too early to say whether the Middle East is heading for a change. Shamir added that James Baker had promised that in the coming two weeks the United States will not raise proposals of its own on the issue of the venue for the bilateral talks. Yo'el Nir reports:

[Begin Nir recording] [passage omitted] Mr. Shamir said that his meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa was stormy. 'Amr Musa pounced, as Shamir worded it, on Jerusalem, asking how Israel dared take Jerusalem. Later the Egyptian assaulted the settlements, and Shamir replied: I am guided by the government's policy whereby no part of Eretz Yisra'el should be ceded. It is with this conviction that I am going for peace negotiations, Shamir said. [passage omitted]

As for the bilateral talks, Shamir said that Yosi Ben-Aharon reported that the talk with the Syrians was correct, although the head of the Syrian team occasionally raised his voice. The talk with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was held in a positive atmosphere and was interspersed with humorous moments.

As for the venue of the next stage of the talks, several of the Knesset committee members expressed their surprise that while Israel's official stance so far had been in favor of holding the talks in the region, in the talks with the Syrians Israel still suggested that the talks continue in the Israeli and Syrian Embassies in one of the European countries. In the talks with the Lebanese we were even clearer and suggested Rome or London. It is only with the Jordanians and Palestinians that we suggested the region: Jerusalem and Jordan. The Arab side, Shamir reported, rejected the proposals. In any event, Secretary of State James Baker promised Elyaqim Rubinstein that the United States will not raise proposals of its own on the venue issue in the coming two weeks. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1800 GMT on 4 November also reports on Shamir's remarks to the Knesset committee, adding: "Shamir said that the two sides, the Israeli and Palestinian-Jordanian, did not agree on the location or the frequency of future talks. Israel proposed that the talks settle between Jordan and Jerusalem. The joint delegation said the time was not yet ripe for this. The Palestinian-Jordanian team wanted the negotiations to be held twice a week; Israel countered that the talks take place twice a month." Also, "Shamir said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is giving both sides, Israel and the Arabs, two weeks to resolve the issue of the venue of the talks before he decides the matter."]

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 4 November carries a short interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Asked for his reaction to Secretary Baker's proposal that a settlement freeze be announced in return for an end to the intifadah, Shamir said: "I did not hear about this proposal, but I think there is no connection between the two. The intifadah should stop, and the settlements should not be stopped."]

Shamir Views Proceedings of Madrid Talks

TA0411184191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 November 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Shlomo Ganor, on 4 November in Shamir's office—recorded in progress, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] ....the talks which took place between Israel and the Palestinians, Syrians, and Jordanians. Do you believe that the sides in the Middle East took a fateful step from which there is no return?
[Shamir] I believe that the process will continue. I do not believe that those who began it believe in retreating from that path, but that could occur. Such things happen in the world. A process that is started does not always reach its conclusion or the planned end. Sometimes it ends at a certain stage along the way.

[Ganor] Are the direct talks in fact recognition by the Arab states of Israel and a breakthrough?
[Shamir] I would not go that far. We are not urging recognition in these talks. The aim of the process is to reach peace treaties; that is to what we are striving for, not recognition.

[Ganor] Does the fact that the Palestinian delegation made an independent move and came to the talks despite the Syrians' hesitation mean we can make progress in the peace process even without Syria?
[Shamir] First, we are talking about the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. There are no separate Palestinian and Jordanian delegations. We recognize a single united delegation in this process. It is true that there are sometimes—we witnessed it—differences between the various Arab elements. When Israel prevents the establishment of a united Arab front against us that is good. It should therefore be viewed as positive. To what extent it commits the parties throughout the process is difficult to forecast.

[Ganor] Do you still view the Syrians as an obstacle to progress in the political process?

[Shamir] They are very tough, very extremist, and try to foil any progress. They do not always succeed.

[Ganor] Will Israel be prepared to make any gestures after the opening of the Madrid peace talks?

[Shamir] That should be a decision agreed upon by the sides. It could be part of the negotiations. If in the midst of the negotiations the sides reach a decision that they should make some sort of gestures it is possible.

[Ganor] Can the firm demand by Arab elements to stop settlement be considered?

[Shamir] That is not something for a gesture, that is very much a matter of principle and will be a very serious part of the negotiations between us and them. The settlement issue is part of the territorial issue and [passage indistinct].

[Ganor] If the United States suggests holding the bilateral talks in Washington, will Israel agree to it?

[Shamir] We said what we want; we prefer to conduct the bilateral negotiations in the region, or at least close to the region. Washington is very far away.

[Ganor] Yesterday, you met with Foreign Minister Levi. Have you ironed out your differences?

[Shamir] I do not know whether we should talk about ironing out differences; I hope that everything that needs correcting will be corrected.

Negotiations on Bilateral Talks Venue Continue

'Intensive Contacts' With U.S.

TA0411201591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Israel is continuing intensive contacts with U.S. Administration representatives and, through them, with the Arab governments to determine the location and date for the continuation of the direct talks. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that all parties to the negotiations agree that without continuous U.S. involvement it will be impossible to resume the talks soon. The assessment is that the U.S. Administration will speed up the continuation of the contacts so that the momentum achieved in Madrid is not stopped. It is assessed in Jerusalem that Israel will not insist at this stage on its demand that all talks continue in the Middle East.

Rubinstein on Venue, Palestinian Immunity

TA0511073691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the negotiating team for the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, by Ya'el Dan and Arad Nir—live]

[Text] [Dan] Is there a sense of getting back to routine or will our daily routine never be the same?
[Rubinstein] This is also part of our daily routine. I am referring to those things that we must do to continue the peace process and to other topics. After all, the world has not come to a stop. We are certainly moving on to a new stage, and we will have to make the best of it.

[Dan] Have you had an opportunity to use any of the phone numbers you were given in Madrid?
[Rubinstein] We are currently at a stage which I would define as the continuation of consultations toward finding a location and a date in anticipation of the ongoing process.

[Dan] Can you confirm this morning's newspaper headline that Israel has dropped its demand to hold the bilateral talks in the region?
[Rubinstein] I cannot confirm this because our stands have been made very clear.

[Nir] Is there a chance of us compromising on some other option, such as alternating between their and our embassies in Europe?
[Rubinstein] Our positions remain as they were presented by the political level and the various negotiators. We will continue to try to persuade the other side in the correct manner—through diplomatic negotiations, not on the radio.

[Nir] Secretary of State Baker is quoted by the press as having presented us with something tantamount to an ultimatum, according to which he will go ahead and issue invitations if the parties have not reached an agreement within the next two weeks. What do you say to that?
[Rubinstein] I would suggest that we deal with things one at a time. The parties are currently holding consultations. From what I heard of the secretary of state's remarks, I gather that if the parties do no reach an understanding, he and others will make proposals. There is no question of issuing invitations. The bilateral process is just that: It is a direct, bilateral process. In any event, I do not believe that we should go beyond what I have already said, which are the self-evident matters of the ongoing consultations. I would suggest we move on to other issues.

[Dan] I would still like to deal with this subject. It has been said that you asked Baker to offer proposals during the next two weeks regarding the venue. Why did you do that? Do you not believe we can reach decisions without U.S. mediation?
[Rubinstein] I believe that it is our initial duty to hold direct negotiations with the delegation facing us. This is the nature of direct negotiations. We are merely at the beginning of this phase, and I would really like to hope that it is possible to go on.

[Nir] Mr. Rubinstein, the papers this morning report that members of the Palestinian delegation have asked for immunity for all the Palestinians involved in the political process. Can it be assumed that those people will no longer be summoned for tiresome interrogations?
[Rubinstein] I would not like to deal with the details of this either. They are interested in arrangements which could facilitate negotiations for them. We still have to discuss this among ourselves. All I can say is that when the State of Israel enters negotiations, it has no interest in placing unnecessary burdens on the people with whom it is negotiating or in doing anything that could offend or insult anyone, God forbid. We would certainly want to enable anyone who acts within the framework of the law—which is expected of all of us, including those negotiating with us—to hold fair negotiations. As for the way this will be done, this is a matter for consultations.

[Dan] Is there a possibility that at some stage or under certain circumstances, there will be a split between the Jordanian and the Palestinian delegations on some of the issues?
[Rubinstein] The answer is very simple: We are conducting negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. This is what has been agreed, and this is just what happened in Madrid. We sat across the table from a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. This delegation will have to discuss with us two groups of topics or rather two tracks that were mentioned in the original invitations to the process, as is well known: One is the bilateral issue concerning Israeli-Jordanian relations which we hope, God willing, will bring about a peace treaty and the normalization it entails. The other track is the one which starts with interim arrangements for the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, to be followed several years later by negotiations for a permanent arrangement. Both groups of issues will be discussed with that delegation. Its composition will be coordinated with us in accordance with the functional needs of the relevant issues.

[Dan] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, we thank you and hope that you do not go back to routine matters.
[Rubinstein] I hope that your wishes will indeed come true, because even if we assume a routine of negotiations, I hope it will be blessed and constructive. Thank you.

'Sources' on Options, Preconditions

TA0511063191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Jerusalem sources have told him that there are several options for the next step in the peace talks, including the Greek island of Rhodes or Cyprus. [passage omitted]

The Jerusalem sources noted that another yet unresolved issue is the frequency of the meetings.

Citing Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources, reporter Yehoshu'a Me'iri reports from Cairo that Syria wants its name spiked off the list of terror-supporting countries as a precondition for its agreement to attend the next stage of the talks. Syria has also demanded that the United States renew its contacts with the PLO.

Madrid Talks Delegation Returns; Members Comment

TA0411194691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1820 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Excerpts] [IDF Radio moderator] The Israeli Air Force plane that flew the members of the Israeli teams to the peace negotiations landed in Israel a short while ago. A news conference currently is convened at Ben-Gurion Airport, and our correspondent, Yaron Ben-'Ami, reports:

[Ben-'Ami] Let us now hear Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Yesterday we made a first step in a fateful trip. The road ahead of us is still long and is strewn with obstacles, difficulties, and crises too, but it is also full of hope. You surely could witness the obstacles yesterday. You could have an impression too, as we did, of the difficulties we faced in convening at least some of the delegations. Still, I am sure that all feel, like me, that a great thing was achieved here since we removed a great stumbling bloc that we encountered at the outset of our road: Israel has achieved direct negotiations with each of its neighbors. This is a goal at which it has been aiming for 43 years, a goal to which the prime minister referred as the main goal of the Madrid peace conference. The heads of the delegations will give a detailed report to the government about their talks, and the government will decide on the continuation of the contacts and the future of the peace road. I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the heads of the delegations, Yosi Ben-Aharon, Elyaqim Rubinstein, and Salay Meridor, who conducted initial contacts with a great deal of talent and patience. These contacts were delicate, difficult, and sometimes irritating and embarrassing, but these men did not get embarrassed and rose to this difficult occasion. I also would like to congratulate and thank the negotiating teams; officials of the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry; the public relations and administration people; officials of the defense establishment, of course; the secretaries; the communications people; and finally, the Air Force pilots who brought us back home from the West.

[Ben-'Ami] That was Binyamin Netanyahu. Let us now go over to Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein.

[Rubinstein] The deputy foreign minister congratulated me and the others, and let me pay him back with congratulations on the great work he did, both personally and as head of the public relations apparatus that demonstrated its great talents in Madrid vis-a-vis many such apparatuses with a lot of means at their disposal, representing many countries, as well as hostile elements. Our public relations people, headed by Netanyahu, carried out their job in a talented and successful manner.

Let me say a few words about the negotiations with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. As is known, the negotiations in yesterday's meeting were held in a good and businesslike atmosphere. The first thing we face in the near future is to keep in touch with elements of this delegation in order to determine the venue of the continued negotiations. We hope that this will be done by mutual agreement. The venue has not been determined yet. We want it to be concluded as soon as possible so that we can begin the negotiations quickly. These negotiations, as is known, will be conducted with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and according to the framework of the process it will follow two tracks, both in the framework of the joint delegation: one track of bilateral talks with Jordan, which we hope will culminate in a peace treaty with Jordan, and the other track, negotiations on interim arrangements for the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza residents for five years, following which negotiations on the permanent settlement will begin. These are the two tracks we will follow in the negotiations with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Let me emphasize, or rather repeat, a sentence uttered by the deputy foreign minister which, in my opinion, is important. The opening conference and the bilateral talks emanated a feeling of history in the making. Still, anyone who is experienced in negotiations in the Middle East knows there is no room for euphoria, that we should entertain realistic hopes and expectations. We should have hopes and expectations, but not lose sight of reality. The reference here is to difficult issues, and the negotiations will not be short. They will continue for a while and will have ups and downs, although I hope there will be more ups than downs.

[Ben-'Ami] Now for Mr. Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] [passage omitted] It is clear to us that we will need a great deal of patience and perseverance until—if at all—we manage to break through that wall and perhaps reach some sort of understanding with the Syrians, but we also will be prepared for what follows.

[Ben-'Ami] Now, Mr. Salay Meridor.

[Meridor] As we all know, we began the bilateral talks with the Lebanese delegation yesterday. They were conducted in a good, and even friendly atmosphere. They naturally dealt with the issues of how, when, and where to continue the negotiations. We are very hopeful about the negotiations with Lebanon because we believe that when we study the real interests of Israel and an independent Lebanon there are no basic opposing interests. One could say that yesterday we together wrote the first page in a book the importance of which will depend on its last chapter. For our part, we will make all efforts to

continue writing the rest of the book together with the Lebanese until we complete it in a peace treaty between the two countries.

[Ben-'Ami] Questions are now be directed to the delegation.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT Correspondent Semadar Peri] A question to Mr. Rubinstein. Sir, you shook the hands of several people—Haydar 'Abd- al-Shafi and Sa'ib 'Urayqat—whose ties to the PLO are not in doubt. Perhaps in view of that breakthrough in Israeli-Palestinian relations the time has come to amend the law banning meetings with the PLO?

[Rubinstein] I shook the hand of a delegate whom the Israeli delegation agreed to sit with in these negotiations as part of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Those delegates, as far as I know, met the State of Israel's criteria. One of them, who announced that he did not meet the criteria, came of his own initiative and asked why that was the situation, and it was explained to him. He did not participate in the negotiations afterward. The people Israel sits with are those who meet the criteria we decided on for these negotiations. In other words, Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip who are not PLO and not from East Jerusalem. I therefore believe that the issue bears no relevance to amending the law, which was passed by the Knesset.

[Israel Television Correspondent Gadi Sukenik] Mr. Rubinstein, there is a feeling here that the negotiations with Jordan and the Palestinians will be separate. In other words, will the Palestinians in the future also be able to be a separate team in direct negotiations, an independent entity.

[Rubinstein] The answer is negative. Yesterday we sat opposite a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation throughout the day. Of course, within the delegation there were elements interested in separating the negotiations. They know it—and that is something that cropped up in the talks—despite all sorts of declarations—that the negotiations are with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. [passage omitted]

Commander—'Major Intelligence Effort' on Iraq

TA0411162891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, the Air Force commander, said Israel is investing a major intelligence effort in ascertaining Iraq's military capability. The Iraqis hid a large number of their missiles; therefore, we do not know how many missiles they still have. In an interview with the Air Force bulletin, Gen. Bin-Nun said that despite the talk about peace arrangements, all the countries around us, except for Jordan, are procuring military equipment from all available sources. The Syrians bought arms in East Europe and the USSR and are also searching for sources in the United States and West Europe.

Golan Heights Settlement Ceremony Held 4 Nov

TA0411150991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] In the northern Golan Heights, the civilianization ceremony of the Qela' settlement was held with the participation of Ministers Ari'el Sharon, Refa'el Eytan, and Yuval Ne'eman this afternoon. Our correspondent, Hayim Hecht, points out that many of the dozens of television crews and foreign journalists who covered the ceremony asked the ministers if the timing was not a direct provocation to the United States and Syria. Minister Sharon replied that the real provocateur is Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The Syrians are a band of murderers, worse than the Nazis, since even the Nazis did not pride themselves in murdering prisoners, Sharon said. Sharon believes that the Madrid conference was a colossal political failure.

Uliya Wolfovich, a Soviet immigrant responsible for immigration and absorption in the Peace Now Movement, asked inhabitants of Qela' not to be exploited by the government as a way to torpedo the talks with Syria. Our correspondent, Gil Litman, points out that most Qela' residents are Soviet immigrants.

Ne'eman Said To Divert Funds for Settlements

TA0411101591 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Nov 91 p 1

[Report by Marit Gilat and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] Since assuming the post of energy and infrastructure minister, Professor Yuval Ne'eman has been using funds earmarked for frontier towns in the north and for the local Arab sector to finance the development of the electricity infrastructure in the territories. [passage omitted]

A senior source at the Finance Ministry Budget Department said that in 1991 Minister Ne'eman diverted these funds to subsidize power grids in settlements. A source close to the Energy and Infrastructure Ministry told DAVAR that in 1991 the population for which the budget was earmarked has received no funds at all. [passage omitted]

Over 200 Mobile Homes Transferred to Settlements

TA0311114491 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Nov 91 p 3

[Report by Adi Gal]

[Text] The Construction and Housing Ministry has begun to transfer hundreds of mobile homes from a site in the Western Galilee to various settlements in the territories. The Asher regional council learned this over the weekend. The site from which the mobile homes were taken has been planned as the second largest in Israel, and over 2,000 structures, mainly for immigrants, were due to be put up there.

About a week ago, Construction and Housing Ministry officials presented representatives of the Asher council with a plan to reduce the number of mobile homes to 1,600. During the week, 200 structures were moved from the site, and workers said that the mobile homes were transported to the territories.

The spokesman for the Construction and Housing Ministry said yesterday in response to a question that there is no intention to reduce the original site. The spokesman said the site served as a transit stop for some of the homes and confirmed that others were transferred to different locations, including Judaea and Samaria.

IDF Cuts Presence in Southern Lebanon

TA0511104991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Nov 91 p A5

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Menahem Horowitz, and agencies]

[Excerpts] Relative quiet now prevails in southern Lebanon after several successive days of incidents and shelling. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources said that no Shiite villages were shelled by the IDF or the SLA [South Lebanese Army] yesterday, and local residents are now returning to their homes. [passage omitted]

Israeli military sources believe that Hizballah attempts to attack IDF and SLA troops will continue although the Madrid talks are over. An Army source said that Hizballah is now the IDF's greatest and most dangerous enemy in southern Lebanon.

Recently, the IDF turned over outposts in the security zone to the SLA. The IDF is making constant efforts to limit its presence in Lebanon and to transfer responsibility for various areas to the SLA. The decision to expand the SLA deployment was based on the recognition of the SLA troops' high operational capability, which was recently acknowledged by both the Northern Command and the General Staff.

In the security zone's northern sector, as well as in other locations where a sustained IDF presence is required, efforts are being made to increase the troops' efficiency. [passage omitted]

Arrow Missile's Third Test Launch 'Failed'

TA0311070191 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Nov 91 p 16

[Report by Arye Egozi]

[Excerpt] The third test launch of the Arrow antimissile missile has failed. The missile was launched Wednesday from a vessel anchored off a beach in central Israel, but due to a hitch the missile did not behave as expected.

Israel Aircraft Industries project managers still do not know the reason for the problem, which will cause yet another delay in the timetable.

Wednesday's test was conducted after delays caused by various mishaps. The fast missile left the launcher in the direction of another missile, which was supposed to simulate an enemy missile but immediately went out of control. The flow of data from the missile was also deficient.

Israeli sources said that the reasons for the mishap are still unclear. [passage omitted]

Commentary Calls for Arrow Project's Reassessment

TA0111052691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Oct 91 p B1

[Re'uven Pedatzur commentary: "End of the Nuclear Monopoly"]

[Text] One of the most important of Israel's recent strategic declarations has gone unnoticed in the shadow of the media brouhaha accompanying the Madrid conference. Appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated that "the Middle East is marching toward the end of the nuclear weapons era." He noted that Israel would have to deploy in accordance with the new reality that will be created in the region, but this did not seem to excite his audience.

The Knesset members took no notice of the defense minister's statement, which may attest to the fact that they are unaware of the far-reaching implications inherent in the acquisition of nuclear arms by the Arab countries. The end of Israel's nuclear superiority in the Middle East will necessarily lead to sweeping changes in Israel's security policy and to the consolidation of a new and different military and political relationship between Israel and its neighbors. The failure to take notice of this development and to take the necessary action to deal with this new reality may yet prove a dangerous security mistake.

It is hard to predict the rules of the nuclear game that will be consolidated in the Middle East. The various geopolitical conditions, the level of intensity of the conflict in the region, and the large number of parties involved may suggest that the rules set at the end of the process will differ from those observed by the superpowers. At the same time, it is imperative that we attempt to assess them.

One critical aspect of the policy that Israel should consolidate became relevant and acute following Iraq's launching of ballistic missiles against Israel's home front. The need to provide an answer to the ballistic angle in our region is a prerequisite in the argument over the future of the Arrow system, the avowed purpose of which is to defend Israel from ballistic missile attacks.

The defense minister declared in a press interview that the Arrow constitutes a good answer to nuclear missiles, but this declaration calls for a thorough analysis, particularly because of the extreme importance attached to the

Arrow's interception potential. After all, if it emerges that the Arrow cannot reasonably counter the nuclear missile threat, the decision to go ahead with its development may have to be reconsidered. In 10 or 20 years, the Arrow could be almost obsolete, not to mention the billions of dollars necessary to complete its development and acquisition. It is feared that by the time it is developed with the expenditure of vast resources, the Arrow system—on which Israel's active defense policy will be largely founded—will not counter the main threat, which is nuclear.

Clearly, when dealing with the nuclear threat in the Israeli context, it would be enough for one missile to penetrate our defense system and hit a target on Israeli soil for the price to be unbearable. Therefore, the fundamental decision assigning the Arrow to defend us also from nuclear missiles, which has already been made by Minister Arens, must be translated into a low penetration rate (that is, the number of missiles that break through the defense system and are not destroyed by it). In fact, in the nuclear context, one must talk about a hermetical seal against incoming missiles. This is a complex undertaking and hardly technologically feasible. A rate in excess of 1 percent is more than enough not to base Israel's defense policy against nuclear missiles on the Arrow system. Such a wager could be too risky.

There must be an intensive debate on the relevancy of the Arrow system vis-a-vis the expected future threats to the region, which were so decisively expounded by the defense minister. This is only one of the problems involved in the attempt to analyze the Arrow's potential to intercept nuclear missiles.

In order to neutralize the effect of the nuclear explosion that could occur when the Arrow intercepts a nuclear missile, one must plan the interception to take place within a defined and relatively small altitude range. This limitation makes the planning of the Arrow even more difficult and makes the system's chances of successfully creating a hermetic defense even more remote. In the professional literature it is usually assumed that the interception of a nuclear missile at an altitude of over 10 kilometers will not cause a destructive effect on the ground. In the interception of nuclear missiles, however, there is also a maximum altitude limitation. Due to the phenomenon of the electromagnetic pulse—which is one of the effects accompanying a nuclear explosion—the detonation of a nuclear missile at an altitude of over 40 kilometers could be devastating. An explosion at above this altitude creates an electromagnetic pulse that paralyzes all electronic systems on the ground, from military communications systems to telephone lines. Obviously, Israel will not be able to function militarily under war conditions if all its electrical and electronic systems are paralyzed.

It is clear from all this, and from other technical specifications too complicated to detail, that in a nuclear Middle East there may be no recourse other than to adopt a different policy that is not necessarily based on an active defense system like the Arrow. In the absence of other systems with a proven hermetic sealing capability against nuclear missiles, Israel will apparently have to step up its deterrence policy and perhaps base it on an open nuclear deterrence. Within the framework of such a deterrent posture, the launching of any kind of ballistic missile toward Israel would serve as cause for a nuclear reaction because any such missile could conceivably be bearing a nuclear warhead and Israel cannot assume the inherent risk of basing its defense on attempts to intercept it.

The move toward overt nuclear deterrence is not an intrinsic Israeli interest, and it must try to postpone it for as long as possible. Under the conditions of a nuclear Middle East, however, there may be no alternative. We must therefore examine the investments still required to complete the Arrow system against the backdrop of anticipated developments in the nuclear field and against the defense minister's statements in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Muslim Brotherhood Rejects Peace Conference

JN0111054591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Oct 91 pp 1, 7

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—As the Middle East peace conference was opening in Madrid Wednesday, the Muslim Brotherhood reaffirmed its opposition to any negotiation with Israel but appeared to take pains to emphasize that it would adhere to constitutional and democratic means to express its stand.

While declaring Wednesday a "day of mourning" and reiterating its hardline position, the Brotherhood, the most vociferous opponent of any peace talks with Israel, reiterated that it does not support "violence in Arab countries since it will only weaken the position of the Arab and Islamic countries."

"We do not want any confrontation with the government," said Ahmad Qutaysh al-Azayida, spokesman for the movement's 23-member parliamentary bloc. "We believe that any conflict with the government will only be harmful to the cause," he told a press conference.

"We will say what we believe in by using democratic means," he said.

Sources close to the Brotherhood's leadership in Jordan said there was a tacit understanding among the various Islamic groups and leftist factions not to resort to any form of violence in expressing opposition to the Madrid peace conference.

"We expect everyone of our followers to abide by this agreement," said one of the sources who preferred anonymity. "Disciplinary action will be taken against those who take things into their own hands," added the source.

At the same time, the hardliners appear to believe that the shape of events at the Middle East peace conference would bear out their pronunciations that Arab rights would not be realised through any negotiations with Israel.

"We are waiting for Thursday and Friday," said one activist referring to the scheduled speeches of Israeli and Arab delegations as well as their replies to each other's addresses, which could possibly provide an insight into the thinking of the respective parties.

At his press conference, Deputy al-Azayidah vowed to amplify what he described as "the Islamic rejection of the Jewish presence in Palestine" through peaceful demostrations and media events and push home the fundamentalists' call for holy war to liberate "all of Palestine"—including what is today the state of Israel.

"As we said in Parliament's vote of confidence session (in the government of Tahir al-Masri in July), we understand that Jordan was forced to enter this tunnel (the peace conference)," Mr. al-Azayidah said in reply to a question on how the Brotherhood viewed the Kingdom's pre-Madrid options, given the political situation in the Middle East and the country's economic conditions.

"Jordan did not have a choice to resist," he said. "But the Arab and Islamic worlds have a choice to resist and they will exercise it."

Towards this end, he added, unity among Arabs and Muslims was paramount and should be one of the priorities for the Arab and Islamic worlds.

"The Palestinian problem is not the cause but the result of disarray in the Arab and Islamic ranks," he said.

According to the Brotherhood, the Madrid peace conference will not only lead to "liquidating the Palestinian cause," but will also pose to the Arabs a risk of "Jewish penetration into the Arab society (and) altering the cultural identity of our nation."

Mr. al-Azayidah asserted that the Arabs risk making sweeping concessions—such as ending the Arab economic boycott of Israel and the Palestinian uprising and accept "self-defeat of the Arab nation and disarming Arabs and Muslims, and undermining of all efforts to unite the Arab as well as aborting liberation movements and imposing restrictions on Islamic activities" and gain nothing in return.

Reiterating the fundamentalist line that the Arab-Israeli conflict was not a "dispute over borders but a matter of life or death," Mr. al-Azayidah called for "preparing the people for the decisive imminent battle...reviving Arab solidarity...supporting the uprising...and maintaining the Arab boycott of the Zionist enemy."

The sudden escalation of anti-Israeli guerrilla attacks in Lebanon on the eve of the Madrid conference, Mr. al-Azayidah said, is the "natural response of the Arab and Islamic nations and we believe this will not end even if agreements are reached" at the peace conference.

"The 1 billion Muslims on whose behalf we are speaking...will continue to reject the Zionist presence and will continue to resist it even if (Israeli) embassies are established in Arab capitals," said Mr. al-Azayidah, as Brotherhood activists passed black coffee around in observation of a day of mourning.

Political observers saw the obviously low-key approach of the Brotherhood and the reported agreement among Islamist and leftist groups to desist from emotional demonstrations and protests as a reflection of their anxiety not to cause any disruptions in the Jordanian democratic process which has given them a foothold in the legislative authority for the first time in the Arab World.

Holds Rally To Criticize Talks

JN0211123091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Nov 91 p 22

[Text] Amman—The Muslim Brotherhood held a rally at the university mosque following Friday prayers yesterday. Speakers at the rally were Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, controller general of the movement, engineer Ahmad Qutaysh, and deputy Hamzah al-Azaydah.

The speakers criticized the Madrid peace conference and the resolutions it adopts. They warned against being driven by U.S. promises. These promises, they said, cannot establish just and lasting peace in the region, but rather seek to preserve the Zionist expansionist entity.

Prince Hasan Praises Palestinian Role in Madrid

JN0411074891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan said Sunday that the Palestinians have been acclaimed internationally and "humanized" by the Madrid peace conference as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had called for.

"They did not call for vengeance," the Crown Prince said. "They very clearly called for their people to be set free, all to be protected by the international community," he said in an interview with CBS television.

"They came through very much as players, and that is absolutely the personal contribution of Hanan 'Ashrawi who is sharp and responded effectively to many stereotypes about the Palestinians and the Arabs," he said.

On future Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Prince Hasan said: "I think it is premature to comment. All I can say is that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship will be certainly discussed at length both in Madrid or wherever, and here, and indeed across the river in the Palestinian territories. I think that it is the other side of the coin that we are getting a good look at each other's views and in reality of each other's positions, and the extent of each other's commitment. Thus far there has been satisfaction on both sides."

Asked if there was anything unexpected which came out of the Madrid peace conference, Prince Hasan said: "I think the degree of emotional impact that I predicted, particularly by the media, has probably—if you took an opinion poll—caused more people to be directly involved in the process than I had ever imagined. We spoke about the educating and learning process on the horizons of peace, and the dividend of peace. I think this learning process has gone far beyond what I imagined."

Editorial on Motives of Israeli Actions in Lebanon

JN0311094891 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Nov 91 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Aggression, Cover for Political Defeat"]

[Text] Following the political, diplomatic, and media defeat in which Shamir became entangled during the past days in Madrid, the Israeli prime minister opted for aggression on Kafr Rumman and al-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon to cover up his defeat in the hope that it would provoke the Arab parties in Madrid and produce complications that would push the Arabs to withdraw from the negotiations that will begin in Madrid today, or to disrupt them even for a while!!

It is clear that this provocative approach is a direct translation of the negative Israeli intentions toward the peace process. It could became a prelude to other Israeli practices aimed at stopping this march. Because of this, there is need for a firm U.S. signal that would deter the Israeli aggressors and prompt them to abandon their aggressive practices in southern Lebanon and in any other Arab areas, especially the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is very important that such a signal should be made quickly, because it is possible that the Israeli occupiers might commit provocative crimes against the holy sites in the occupied territories to explode Arab sentiments in a manner that would disrupt the peace process and undermine confidence in its worth.

Lebanon's rejection of the Israeli warning to vacate Kafr Rumman and al-Nabatiyah and placing the Lebanese Army there on alert to confront the aggressors is a measure that proves Lebanon's sincere determination to defend its national soil, and it stresses that its sincere response to the peace process will not prevent it from doing so.

We would not be exaggerating if we say that Israel's attacks on Lebanon are like throwing the gauntlet into the face of Washington and Moscow, the co-sponsors of the peace conference. The time has come for the United States, the Soviet Union, and the European Community to protect the peace process from the evil Israeli intentions which Shamir harbors to escape this process after having failed to escape facing international legitimacy in Madrid.

'Encouraging Signs' Seen in Bilateral Talks

JN0411083091 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Nov 91 p 1

[Editorial: "Encouraging Initial Signs in the March of Peace"]

[Text] It seems that the two sessions of negotiation between the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the Israeli delegation have ended with encouraging results, especially since the Israeli spokesman has announced that autonomy for the Palestinians will be the subject of the next direct negotiations.

Besides, Israel's approval of the Syrian conditions concerning the location of the forthcoming negotiations under U.S. influence or pressure is a sign of encouraging optimism over the possibility of continuing the negotiations in favor of the joint Arab concept.

It is true that the provocative Israeli attacks on Lebanon have had their bearing on negotiations and have obstructed the morning session between the Syrian and Israeli delegations and between the Lebanese and Israeli delegations. It is also true that the Israeli delegation's demands to shift negotiations to the Middle East region and to disperse and isolate the Arab delegations are demands related to procedural aspects and have dimensions and connotations indicating Israel's desire to divide the Arabs and weaken coordination among the Arab parties. But it is equally true that the solidarity of the Arab position has aborted all the Israeli attempts to obstruct or disrupt the negotiations. Besides, the U.S. role has largely contributed to softening the hardline Israeli position and forcing the Israeli delegation to withdraw its procedural demands.

It is clear that the integrated, cohesive Arab position and the Arab parties' reliance on a strong and winning negotiating card, which is the card of international legitimacy, have reinforced the negotiating Arab position and enabled the Arab parties to achieve initial success. These are encouraging signs, which should prompt the Arab delegations to continue coordination, common understanding, and adherence to the principled Arab constants that are based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

We should warn that the Israeli side will continue its attempts to present controversial procedural and formal issues to exhaust both time and effort, provoke the Arabs, and sow division among the Arab delegations. The Arabs should therefore be more vigilant and more careful that time and effort are not wasted on insubstantial and unessential issues.

Paper on Upcoming Contacts for Arab Coordination

JN0511091091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
5 Nov 91 p 28

[Text] Cairo—AL-RA'Y has learned that important Arab contacts will be held within the next few days to coordinate and unify the Arab position prior to the outset of the second stage of direct negotiations between the Arabs and the Israelis, which it has been decided will be held in Washington on 24 November [as published].

In this context, AL-RA'Y learned that the Syrian side is currently continuing mediation between Egypt and Libya to overcome the political crisis that has recently escalated between the two countries.

Some sources believe that a Libyan-Egyptian summit will be held soon to discuss means of overcoming the crisis.

Regarding the peace conference and its results, AL-RA'Y sources stressed that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will make an important Arab tour within the next few days, during which he will explain Egypt's views on what has been reached at the Madrid peace conference. The same sources said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will undertake a ninth tour of the region to prepare the climate of all parties for the new stage of the peace process which is related to direct negotiations. During this expected tour, Baker will meet with His Majesty King Husayn, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, in addition to an important meeting he will hold with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi in Jerusalem, and another similar meeting with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the peace conference.

AL-RA'Y also learned that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will make an important tour of the region's countries that will include Jordan, Egypt, and Syria, and during which he will meet with the leaders of these states to coordinate stands with them on the peace process.

Paper Urges U.S., USSR To Intervene in Talks

JN0511100991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
5 Nov 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Israel Is Negotiating for the Sake of It"]

[Text] The results of the first round of bilateral negotiations, held in Madrid between the Arab delegations and Israel, have shown that Shamir's government, which was forced to accept the peace conference, will do its utmost to waste time, exhaust the diplomatic efforts, and engage the negotiations in marginal issues. It will resort to other means to keep the negotiators away from the essence of the issue for which the peace conference was convened.

This Israeli political tactic reveals a clear-cut truth about the need for the two sponsors of the peace conference to intervene in all stages of negotiations, sometimes through making proposals, and in most cases through employing pressure, so that Yitzhaq Shamir and his negotiating team do not sabotage the peace process and waste the current peace opportunity.

If the United States and the Soviet Union adhere to their joint position, which is that the parties to the conflict in the region should make peace by themselves and that the duty of the two co-sponsor countries should be restricted to offering advice and counsel, then no substantial progress is expected along the road of peace which Yitzhaq Shamir is continuing to evade.

There is no better gift the two co-sponsors can give to Shamir than taking the position of spectator or pursuing a lenient and appeasing attitude with a party that is known to be arrogant and with a government that flagrantly rejects the principles of international legitimacy, especially since Israel does not stop declaring its

insistence on continuing occupation of the Arab territories and its rejection of giving concessions or accepting the principle of land for peace.

The Israeli announcement about the inauguration of a new Jewish settlement, attended by three ministers of Shamir's government, emphasizes that Israel does not consider accepting any of the resolutions or principles on whose basis the peace conference convened, and that it is determined to continue Judaizing the Arab land and planting it with settlers in spite of all that the Israeli negotiator says about readiness to continue peace talks.

In view of all that, we believe that the two sponsors of the peace conference, and the driving force behind the peace process, should actively intervene in the negotiations, which got off to a faltering start, in order to deprive Israel of the luxury of negotiating for the sake of negotiation and to maintain the momentum of the peace process which was realized at the conference's inaugural session. Israel is wagering on winning time so as to sabotage all the diplomatic achievements which were realized over the past eight months.

We know in advance that negotiations with Israel may stretch out endlessly and that the Jewish settlements will continue to grow on Arab land like mushrooms if the United States with all its unlimited influence on Israel does not intervene to force this aggressive and racialist state to heed the principles of international legitimacy and international law. This fact urges us to ask the United States to take the initiative and shoulder its full responsibility as a superpower that is willing to realize just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Column Questions Saudi Prince's Presence at Talks

JN0511112591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
5 Nov 91 p 28

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "The Carrot and the Stick, and the Truth Behind Them"]

[Text] No one knows why Saudi Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan came from Washington to Madrid and seated himself on the "observer's" seat of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states despite the fact that Qatar is the current GCC chairman. If there was no choice but to "reinforce" the Gulf delegation, then it would have been natural for Qatar's foreign minister to occupy that seat, just like his colleague, the Netherlands foreign minister, whose country is the EC chairman. For example, neither Britain, France, nor Germany thought of occupying the European position.

We do not like to antagonize anyone by continuing to talk about the reason for this prince's presence in Madrid. The other day, however, I heard from a Palestinian official in Tunis something correct, but at the same time painful to the heart. This official said: We no longer fear the Israelis or the Americans, regardless of their hostility, but we now fear our Arab "brothers" who volunteer to play this role. Otherwise, tell me who is now implementing the transfer [preceding word in English] policy? Are they the extremist Israelis in Shamir's government or our "brothers" in Kuwait and elsewhere? Would you have believed that the Palestinians would ever suffer from expulsion and humiliation at the hands of brothers whom they served and contributed to in terms of their development, education, and economic prosperity? Would you have believed that the influence of oil money would ever silence all people and prevent them from protesting all that has taken place and that is taking place against the Palestinians? Moreover, do you believe that anyone can like the Palestinians and hate Palestine at the same time? Who is forcing the Palestinians to surrender the camps' arms, leaving them unarmed and exposed to the enemy, exposing them to new bloodbaths similar to Sabra and Shatila and as well as Sabra and Shatila? Moreover, who is imposing an economic blockade on Arabs like me and you and like my children and yours if it is not Arab money? Is it not the Arab money that made the United States control the world? The socialist bloc and the USSR have collapsed because they were in need of less than $50 billion, taking into consideration that the United States borrows annually, through various means, $100 billion from the Arabs, Japan, and Europe, and particularly from the Arabs. Without doing so, it would have collapsed before the USSR and the eastern bloc.

Soon we will discover that the carrot and stick of peace negotiations will, of course, be American. However, the stick will have been cut from the tree of Arab funds, and the carrot will have been picked from the field of Arab funds.

Al-Hirawi Visits Latakia, Meets With al-Asad

NC0511064691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Statement issued by the Presidential Information Affairs Directorate on 4 November]

[Text] His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi visited Latakia this afternoon and held a six-hour meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, during which they discussed the local, regional, and international developments. The discussions during the meeting focused on what took place during the Madrid peace conference, the Arab stands at the conference, and the phases which are still under discussion.

The two presidents stressed the need for the two countries to continue their coordination during the coming phases of the conference. They then discussed the situation in south Lebanon, especially in light of the Lebanese Government's firm decisions to bolster the inhabitants' steadfastness in the southern villages.

President al-Hirawi presented the results of his recent visit to France, the Vatican, and Italy. President al-Asad lauded the positive results of these visits.

Meeting Focused on U.S. 'Message'

NC0511071091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] AL-DIYAR cites ministerial sources as saying that the major topic discussed between Presidents al-Hirawi and al-Asad at their summit meeting yesterday was the U.S. message to Lebanon [not further specified]. In that message, Washington asked Beirut to separate the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations from the Israeli-Syrian talks. The message called on Lebanon to engage in negotiations with Israel, without taking the end results into consideration.

The message also noted that Washington guarantees that Israel will forgo the issue of the Syrian withdrawal from al-Biqa' as a precondition for its withdrawal from the south in case an agreement is reached.

AL-DIYAR cites other sources as saying that the U.S. message referred to negotiations between Lebanon and Israel in a manner which implied that the American side wanted to shield the Lebanese delegation against direct Syrian influence. But according to an agreement signed with Syria, Lebanon cannot act unilaterally in this respect. Hence, the two presidents had to hold a summit meeting.

United Stand With Syria Confirmed

NC0511071691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] It has been reported that President al-Hirawi reviewed with Syrian President al-Asad the contents of a U.S. letter President al-Hirawi received a few days ago, which advised holding Lebanese-Israeli contacts separately from the peace conference to discuss the prospects of future Lebanese-Israeli relations.

President al-Hirawi emphasized that he does not contemplate opening such contacts before the results of the second phase of the bilateral negotiations become clear or to hold them outside the framework of Arab solidarity, particularly Lebanese-Syrian solidarity. After the meeting, Syrian presidential spokesman Jubran Kuriyah confirmed this and emphasized that the two countries have a united stand on the coming phases of the peace conference.

Fadlallah Affirms Syrian-Iranian 'Strategic' Ties

NC0411131291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has affirmed that the core of what the United States seeks today is to entrench the common statement that the United States is the strongest power in the world.

Regarding relations between Iran and Syria, Fadlallah said in an interview published by the newspaper AL-ANWAR that relations between Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran are strategic. There is profound understanding between Damascus and Tehran.

He added: President Hafiz al-Asad is the Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir of the Arabs, and not Anwar al-Sadat. He sent his delegation to Madrid to preserve firm principles, not to make concessions. Therefore, there is no disagreement or split in the Iranian-Syrian alliance.

Israeli Warns of Operations If Attacks Continue

NC0411210591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] A senior Israeli Army officer has issued a warning on the escalation of Hizballah activity in southern Lebanon.

At a news conference in Bint Jubayl, the officer said that the increasing attacks by Hizballah and its allies may force the Israeli army to lose the self-restraint it has heretofore demonstrated. He added that the Lebanese Army's deployment in Sidon has not checked Hizballah's terrorist operations against Israel. In fact, he added, Hizballah members have massed in areas adjacent to the security strip and increasaed their operations. The Israeli colonel, who refused to give his name, said the Israeli army and the South Lebanese Army do not carry out indiscriminate bombings and seek to minimize civilian casualties as much as possible.

Hizballah Positions in al-Biqa' Shelled 4 Nov

NC0411123091 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1204 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Regarding the security situation in the south, approximately 15 155-mm shells fell on Hizballah positions on the approaches to the town of 'Ayn al-Tinah in the western sector of al- Biqa' plain today, causing property damage.

Meanwhile, AFP has cited sources of the Islamic resistance as saying that the resistance has decided to return to traditional methods in its attacks on Israel, now that the Israeli Army has discovered a way to intercept the guided bombs [as heard] by setting up a jamming network. The resistance sources said that the traditional method is to use wire-guided explosive devices.

Shells Land Near Army Barracks in South

NC0511082491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Concerning the security situation in the south, several shells fell on al-Nabatiyah and Kafr Rumman last night. Some of the shells landed near Army barracks.

'Arafat Said To Dismiss Fatah Lebanese Fighters

NC0511065491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Our radio correspondent in Morocco has obtained exclusive information indicating that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last week ordered the dismissal of all Lebanese fighters from the Fatah Movement and ended payment of their salaries. Well-informed sources link this move with the meeting between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and 'Arafat in Paris last week.

Knowledgeable Source: Waite Could Be Freed Soon

NC0511092891 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 4 Nov 91 p 9

[Text] A source knowledgeable about the issue of foreign hostages in Lebanon said that it is likely Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite will be released soon. The source said that no decision has been made to this effect so far, but there is a strong possibility that Waite will be released. The source noted, however, that there is a possibility that Waite's release could be delayed for some time and that another Western hostage will be released instead.

The source said that remarkable progress has taken place on the hostage issue, which may lead to a deal by which Israel would release some of the Lebanese detained in its prisons, the foremost being Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd.

The well-informed source revealed that an Iranian official is in Lebanon to maintain the momentum of the current efforts to release more hostages. The official played a role in persuading the abductors to facilitate the UN efforts to close the hostages file, and assured the abductors that they will be given personal guarantees ensuring that they will not be subjected to any "abduction attempt" following the release of the hostages.

Afghanistan

Former King Shah Attacked in Rome, Wounded

LD0411220591 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Excerpts] The Rome police said that today a man named (Jose de Almedia Santo Paulo), a Portuguese citizen, attacked with a knife the ex-king of Afghanistan, Mohammad Zaher Shah, in his villa in Rome. The man entered his house posing as a journalist.

Police said that the 77-year-old ex-king, who has lived in exile in Italy since 1973, was taken to the Villa San Peitro Clinic with at least two stab wounds. The wounds were not considered mortal. According to the police, Zaher Shah, who was deposed in July 1973, was stabbed in the face and stomach. Police say that the Portuguese citizen has been arrested but his identity has not yet been revealed [as heard]. Police say that he entered the ex-king's villa posing as a journalist. [passage omitted]

The issue of the return of the ex-king of Afghanistan has been discussed on several occasions during the search for a solution to the Afghan issue between the resistance movement and the Government of Afghanistan.

Rebel Leader Deplores Attack

BK0511002491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1719 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 4 (AFP)—The leader of the Pakistan-based Afghan resistance government Monday deplored the attempt on the life of former King Zaher Shah in Rome.

Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, speaking through his son from Peshawar, said "we deplore this act and believe that this is not the way to handle any difference of opinion."

"This terrorist act is definitely against the interests of the people of Afghanistan and the principles of Islamic jihad (holy war)," said Mojaddedi, who is known as a moderate.

The president of the Afghan Interim Government said the ex-monarch had distanced himself long ago from politics and was causing no harm to anyone.

Rebel Group Blames U.S., USSR

BK0511135191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1303 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Nov 5 (AFP)—A spokesman for Afghanistan's Hezb-e Eslami guerrilla group speculated Tuesday that the United States and the Soviet Union had arranged the attempted assassination of former Afghan King Zaher Shah to "attract sympathy" for him.

But Nawab Salim, the spokesman here for Hezb leader Gulboddin Hekmatyar, told AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE] the attack may also have been "an internal family affair."

Salim also said that the fundamentalist group had decided to boycott at least the early sessions of meetings set to go ahead this month between Moscow and the Afghan resistance.

"The Soviets are not sincere" about settling the Afghan conflict, he said.

Moscow wants to "strike a deal with the United States just to get the release of its POWs (prisoners of war)," said Salim. "The Soviets are not giving any impression of considering the mojahedin as the only eligible interlocutors.

"We are not contras, we are independent people."

A mojahedin resistance delegation—including fundamentalist leaders Yunes Khales and Rasul Sayyaf, as well as Gulboddin—was expected to travel to Moscow this month.

But even if Gulboddin does not make the trip, it is possible he will attend the "next stages of the talks," Salim said.

The Hezb spokesman said the attack against Zaher Shah, who was injured with a sharpened paper-knife by a Portuguese man at his villa in Rome, appeared to be "a drama straged by the Soviets and the United States since they want to impose a solution" to the conflict.

(Police in Rome said, however, that they were convinced the attacker was no Portuguese, and had told them he was a Muslim who wanted to kill the former monarch to prevent him regaining the throne. Zaher Shah, 77, was reported to be in satisfactory condition and was ready to assume his "moral duty" and serve the Afghan people, a spokesman for him said in the Italian capital after the assassination attempt.)

"It looks like a drama to get sympathy," but in any event was "not a significant issue," Salim said.

Several moderate factions of the resistance, however, have suggested recently that Zaher Shah could lead an interim government in Kabul ahead of general elections.

Zaher Shah, 77, was reported to be in good condition.

The Hezb and other Afghan resistance groups based in Pakistan condemned the assassination attempt—although not necessarily out of sympathy for their former monarch.

"Zaher Shah should be tried before an Islamic court," said a Hezb statement. "He is the root cause of the Afghan tragedy. He is the one who opened the doors of Afghanistan to the Soviets."

Rebel Leader Cites Conditions for Soviet Talks

BK3110165391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1645 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 31 (AFP)—Radical Afghan resistance leader Golboddin Hekmatyar has laid down preconditions for his faction's participation in mojahedin talks with the Soviet Government, the rebel AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY said Thursday.

A mojahedin delegation is tentatively scheduled to travel to Moscow on Sunday amid indications that the visit may be delayed. Hekmatyar, chief of fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami, said the mojahedin factions "must evolve a common strategy and formula" for an Afghan peace settlement before entering into talks with the Soviets.

He also demanded that a venue for the talks be determined with the consent of all mojahedin groups, ANA said adding that Hekmatyar also wanted assurances that Moscow would not try to confine talks to the question of the release of its prisoners of war.

The mojahedin are believed to be holding an unspecified number of Soviet soldiers who were taken prisoner during the eight-year Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

ANA, which reflects the views of Hezb-e Eslami, quoted Hekmatyar as saying it was not "advisable" to make the trip at this stage since Moscow continued to "support the rejected Kabul regime."

Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the rebel Afghan Interim Government (AIG), said here Tuesday that he was not sure if a mojahedin delegation would be able to depart for Moscow on Sunday.

Observer Sees 'Positive Changes' Toward Peace

LD0111060291 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0435 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Text] Kabul, Oct 30, BAKHTAR—A BAKHTAR political observer writes:

The recent developments occurred in the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) translate the fact that positive changes for the cessation of war and ensurance of a durable peace expand in our country.

The gains of the national reconciliation policy and clear-cut stand adopted by the RA state vis-a-vis the Afghan question has opened new horizons for the restoration of peace in Afghanistan.

It is a matter of pleasure to say here that the Afghans and various political circles have shown specific inclinations in this respect.

A short while ago, a delegation from opposition formations residing in Peshawar left for New York and after establishing talks there returned to Pakistan. It is due that another opposition delegation leave for Moscow.

Regrettably, it must be said here that differences among the opposition factions for the composition of the delegations to New York and Moscow were widened.

Dr. Samad Hamed, a former deputy prime minister of Afghanistan in his interview with the radio BBC in this connection had said that these who commit themselves with jehad must have courage of understanding and coalition among themselves, and, should choose a common course for starting of a dialogue with others.

In Hamed's opinion none of the opposition formations has the right of leadership in Afghanistan. They should comply with the points of view of the Afghans.

Aziz Naim, a former lecturer in the Kabul University stated that if such visits are taken for the just solution of the Afghan issue it could be a good gesture. But question arises that whether these delegations represent their own parties and groups or from the transitional government formed in Peshawar two years ago. Such a government cannot represent Afghan people, he said.

Also, Hamid Karzai in relation to these visits has said that visits of such unauthorized delegations will be resultless. Those who think about the future of Afghans must have a realistic eye-sight on the national interests of Afghanistan.

Russian Official Sends Message to Senate Speaker

LD0311080591 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov 2, BAKHTAR—A gratitude message addressed to Dr Mehmoud Habibi speaker of Senate of the National Assembly "parliament" of the Republic of Afghanistan in response to his congratulatory message sent earlier, on the occasion of the appointment of R. Khasbulatov as chairman of the supreme council of the Russian Federation in Moscow, has been reached to Kabul today. [sentence as received]

The message says that the Republic of Afghanistan and Russia from the ancient days have maintained friendly relations, cooperations and good understandings, which at the time being, are of vital importance for the people of the two countries in the present difficult time.

The message stresses, the supreme council of the Russian Federation has once again declared its loyalty to the Russian political course towards the immediate cessation of war and bloodshed and solving problems as per the principles of national accords in Afghanistan. The message adds I express my gratitude from the invitation extended to me by the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] National Assembly for paying an official and friendly visit to the Republic of Afghanistan. He stated that his future visit from the RA [as received[will provide favourite climate for the solving political, economic and social problems of the countries.

Soviet Delegation Continues Talks 2 Nov

Meets Transportation Minister

LD0411094191 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 3, BAKHTAR—Khalilollah, minister of transport of the Republic of Afghanistan, had a meeting in his office with the Soviet delegation headed by A. Ivanovich Kachanov, first deputy and care-taker of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of the Soviet Union on Nov. 2, 1991, reports BAKHTAR.

During the meeting, the interlocutors talked on cooperation in transportation and economic fields.

Meets Prime Minister Khaleqyar

LD0411100591 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0455 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 3, BAKHTAR—Fazl Haq Khaleqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan received Aleksandr Ivanovich Kachanov, care-taker of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of the Soviet Union and head of the high ranking economic delegation of that country, arrived recently in Kabul for participating in the 10th session of the Afghan-Soviet Joint Commission on Economic and Technical Cooperation, in the Prime Ministry Palace today, reports the Prime Ministry Press Department to BAKHTAR.

In this meeting, Kachanov explained in brief the recent changes and transformations in the economic situation of the Soviet Union. He informed Premier Khaleqyar on the outcomes of his talks with the concerned Afghan authorities and obligations of the sides in economic and technical spheres for the year 1991 and continuation of economic, technical, trade and other cooperation for the subsequent years.

He has assured the Afghan premier that his country will fulfill all her obligations as per previously concluded protocols and agreements between the two countries for the year 1991 in economic, technical particularly primary goods fields etc.

In the light of the recent talks took place between the prime ministers of the two countries in Moscow [words indistinct] the recent developments taken place in the USSR, his country is endeavoring to continue her cooperation with the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] in the spheres of economic, trade, technical etc based on the mutual interests of the two countries' peoples.

Later on Prime Minister Khaleqyar evaluated positively the outcomes of the talks of the Soviet delegation with the concerned Afghan authorities in the framework of the said commission in the interest of the peoples of the two countries.

He wished the ever further boosting of relations between the two countries in the light of the direct cooperation between Afghanistan and the republics of the Soviet Union as well as the role of the private sectors in this connection for the current as well as coming years.

He, besides informing the guest delegation on the measures adopted by the RA Government for the improvement of the economic situation of the country, supporting the free market economy, encouraging the private sector, and preparing the possibilities for the better use of foreign and domestic reserves, demanded the Soviet side to give priority to the completion of the projects under construction, sending needed technical tools, continuation of the relations in dealing with clearing [words indistinct] training cadres, equipping technical system of the Salang Highway and exporting natural gas.

The sides in a business-like atmosphere, emphasized on the continuation and expansion of such relations, in the benefit of the peoples of the two countries.

Gholam Mohayoddin Shahbaz minister of planning of Afghanistan and B.N. Pasukhov Soviet ambassador to Kabul were also present in the meeting.

Holds Talks With Najibollah

LD0411101191 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0519 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 3, BAKHTAR—Najibollah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) received today the high-ranking delegation of the Soviet Union headed by A. Kachanov, first deputy minister and care-taker of that country, Foreign Economic Relations Ministry staying in Kabul, reports presidential press office.

During the meeting President Najibollah shed light on the history of long standing economic, technical and trade cooperation existing between the two neighbouring countries. He said that Afghans were witnesses to the assistance of the Soviet Union rendered during the hard days to them.

Afghans clearly feel that Soviet assistance are made on the basis of humanistic and good neighbourliness existing between the RA and the Soviet Union.

The Afghan leader attracted attention of the Soviet side for the acceleration of the process on concluding a protocol about the export of Afghan gas to the Soviet Union as well as delivery of petroleum, wheat, sugar and other commodities included in the agreements, reached between the sides earlier, to the RA.

Reciprocally, the Soviet delegation assured the Afghan leader that he will do his best for the realisation of the protocols and agreements reached earlier.

Gholam Mohayoddun Shahbaz, planning minister of the RA and B.N. Pastukhov, Soviet ambassador to Kabul, were also present during the meeting.

Signs Economic, Trade Protocol

LD0411112391 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0524 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov 3, BAKHTAR—The RA-USSR has signed an economic and trade cooperation protocol for the years 1991 and 1992 in the framework of the working visit of the Soviet Union delegation with the concerned Afghan authorities in the Ministry of Planning in Kabul today.

Candidate academician engineer 'Abdul Samad Salim, deputy prime minister, ministers of commerce and mines and industries, deputy ministers for foreign affairs, planning and commerce and B.N. Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union in Kabul took part in the signing ceremony of the protocol.

BAKHTAR reported that as per the protocol, the Soviet Union adopts necessary measures and put them into practice for the fulfilling of the commitments and delivery of the remaining quantities of foodstuffs and petroleum included in the gratis assistance protocol and exchange of commodities for the year 1991.

In the concluded protocol, the volume of the requirements of Afghanistan to the gratis assistance of the Soviet Union and exchange of goods for 1992 has been specified to. Documents to this effect will be concluded in the appropriate time.

Also, in the year 1992, the Soviet Union will furnish Afghanistan with expertise, provision of materials and equipments needed in the developmental projects, granting of scholarships and continuation of its gratis assistance to the Watan nursery school projects as well as treatment of invalids and crippleds.

The protocol on the Afghan side was signed by Ghulam Muhayuddin Shahbaz, planning minister of the RA and on the Soviet side by Aleksandr Kachanov, head of the Soviet delegation.

New Fuel Distribution System To Begin 7 Nov

LD0211095991 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0419 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 1, BAKHTAR—As per the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan, endorsed on Oct. 29, 1991 aimed at supplying people with fuel, the distribution of fuel at state fixed price to Kabul citizens begins on Nov. 7, 1991, says the announcement [words indistinct] released today in Kabul.

It says, state employees-each coupon holders-will receive 150 litre diesel and 50 litre kerosine.

Those families whose members are not state employee will receive the same amount of fuel based on certificates signed by the heads of the municipality precincts, it adds.

Authorities Distribute Free Food to Army Officers

LD3010233991 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Oct 91

[Text] To take care of and further provide for the livelihood of the officers of the armed forces, five items of foodstuffs included in the coupon booklet will be distributed to them free of charge on the instructions of esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the country's armed forces.

The press office of the prime minister reported that a session of the Council of Ministers has issued a resolution on the method of distributing foodstuffs in the coupon rations to the generals, officers, NCO's, and satanmans of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Esteemed Khaleqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, in emphasizing the need to supply the armed forces officers with basic goods and to further look after their families, has issued instructions that five basic goods, including flour, cooking oil, soap, tea, and sugar, should be distributed to them free of charge in return for slips in the coupon booklet starting from the beginning of Qaws [month beginning 22 November] of the current year to assist the officers of the armed forces.

Esteemed Khaleqyar issued instructions to the Ministry of Finance to provide the necessary sums of money and put them at the disposal of the Ministry of Commerce for the supply of the goods. The Ministry of Commerce has been commissioned to distribute the cash equivalent to the price of the goods in terms of coupons until these coupon goods are being supplied and put at the disposal of the armed forces officers. The Ministry of Commerce was authorized to consult with the armed forces ministries to work out a mechanism for the distribution of five coupon ration items to the armed forces officers; and after the distribution of coupon booklets they should supply the officers with flour, tea, sugar, cooking oil, and soap, or give them the cash equivalent of the price of these items starting from Qaws of the current year.

The armed forces ministries were commissioned to prepare a list including the names of the generals, officers, NCO's, and satanmans of the relevant units and subunits, separating married men from unmarried ones, and then putting this at the disposal of the Ministry of Commerce. The armed forces ministries are asked to open coupon ration outlets for the distribution of coupon goods in proportion to the number of the relevant officers, and to provide necessary facilities for the distribution of these goods through the relevant outlets.

Bangladesh

Zia Supports U.S. Efforts for Democracy, Peace

BK3110161191 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia says Bangladesh will continue its support to the United States' pioneering role

in strengthening democracy in different countries, keeping global peace and security, and increasing regional cooperation. She was talking to the deputy assistant secretary of state, Mr. Terisita Schaffer, in Dhaka today.

Begum Zia congratulated President Bush for his decision to cut nuclear powers. She also congratulated him for taking initiatives in holding the Middle East peace [conference] in Madrid. Begum Zia thanked Mr. Bush for exempting Bangladesh's debt to the United States, which, she said, will help her country's efforts for economic development.

Mr. Schaffer said the U.S. Government appreciates the sound economic policy of the present government in Bangladesh and will extend all-out support in its development efforts. He hoped Bangladesh will succeed in its efforts to consolidate democracy and achieve economic development.

U.S. Ambassador William B. Milam was present.

Prime Minister Meets Visiting British Minister

BK0311154291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1046 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 3 (AFP)—British Minister for Overseas Development Lynda Chalker met here Sunday with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and assured her of London's continued support for the fledgling democratic process in Bangladesh.

"Britain has given strong endorsement to the priority sectors of development identified by government," Chalker was quoted by the official BSS news agency as telling Zia, "and will extend its continued support and assistance for strengthening and consolidating the democratic process in the country."

Chalker, who ended her three-day visit with a press conference, also told Zia that "a satisfactory atmosphere" had been created in Bangladesh for development and hoped that this would improve even more in the future.

Zia, a 46-year-old widow, became Muslim Bangladesh's first woman prime minister early this year, and is seeking continued British support and cooperation.

She said a liberalised economy had been created in Bangladesh and was conducive to development.

Zia's nationalist government came to power in Bangladesh's first free elections in February following the December resignation of stepdown of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad in the face of popular unrest against his eight-year-old autocratic government.

Before flying to Bangkok, Chalker told reporters that her visit was fruitful and that Britain would do everything possible to help Bangladesh sustain its democracy.

Chalker, who arrived here Thursday, also spent a day on the southeastern Chittagong coast to see the reconstruction work going on there following the devastating April cyclone that left some 139,000 people dead and millions of others homeless.

She said she was happy to see that British assistance for post-cyclone reconstruction work was being properly utilised and that local authorities and non-government organisations were doing a good job in the affected areas.

British High Commissioner (ambassador) Colin H. Emray accompanied Chalker during her visit to the Chittagong coast, officials said.

Zia-Hasina 'Feud,' Economic Situation Viewed

BK0211075391 Hong Kong AFP in English 0326 GMT 2 Nov 91

[By Marie-France Rouze]

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 2 (AFP)—Months after Bangladesh's return to democracy, a bitter feud between its two most famous women shows no sign of abating and leaves a question mark over the future of this impoverished South Asian country.

"If only the two ladies could get together," a legislator of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) said this week, amid serious clashes between student members of rival political groups.

Khaleda Zia, prime minister and widow of assassinated President Ziaur Rahman, crushed Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed in Bangladesh's first free elections in March.

Sheikh Hasina is the daughter of this country's founding hero, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was slain in 1975.

"Their policy is now to see that the BNP cannot settle down," Information Minister Nazmul Huda said.

"I feel that if both ladies don't sit in the same forum nothing can be done," he said, referring to clashes among students that claimed four lives here last Sunday. Each party has blamed the other for violence between their respective youth wings.

Huda said the Awami League's strategy was to systematically criticize the government with the aim of destabilizing it.

"Since day one Sheikh Hasina has been saying that the government has failed... it started with the cyclone, saying that nothing had been done" to help victims of the devastasting wind, he said.

A cyclone in southern Bangladesh in April killed more than 139,000 people and caused millions of dollars in damage.

Dhaka has also taken the Awami League to task for saying the north had been hit by famine, again allegedly with the aim of discrediting the government.

Zia has said the region is experiencing a difficult time after two floods and before the harvest, but she denies that this has become a famine.

Sheikh Hasina accuses Zia and the BNP of unleashing a "reign of terror" on university campuses to deflect public attention from a "serious" famine in the north.

Foreign observers here stress that Bangladesh's economic performance and potential are encouraging—despite the myriad natural disasters that regularly befall it.

Its economic growth rate reached 6.2 percent in 1990, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

According to the ADB, that figure will fall to 3.4 percent in 1991 but should rise to 5.2 percent in 1992—among the highest in South Asia. Its inflation rate, at 8.9 percent this year, is the lowest in the region.

Foreign observers also note that Bangladesh is self-sufficient in rice and is now beginning to export the commodity, although it still needs foreign shipments of wheat.

The economic liberalization and deregulation policy of the previous government has also been stepped up, raising from 51 percent to 100 percent the level of approved foreign participation in industrial firms here, to the applause of business leaders.

Reforms in August that replaced the executive presidency with parliamentary-style rule concentrated power in Zia.

But the business community remains depressed, one Western diplomat said, and waiting to see if its government—despite Zia's popularity—"will be strong enough to apply unpopular measures" of economic reform.

These include privatizing unprofitable firms and laying off surplus manpower, both of which would affect, notably, the jute industry—one of Bangladesh's few earners of hard foreign currency.

Thousands of jute workers have been violently protesting the plan, blocking roads and railways, and signalling, to the information minister, further attempts by the Awami League to weaken the government.

India

Rao, Others Speak at Integration Council Meeting

BK0211100291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] The prime minister has called for evolving a national consensus to find a solution to the sensitive Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] dispute. Addressing the reconstituted National Integration Council meeting in New Delhi today, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao said the government is concerned over the recent developments in Ayodhya. He said the problem has been evading solution for some time. Mr. Narasimha Rao, who was presiding over the meeting, reiterated the government's commitment to a negotiated settlement of the problem which would satisfy the sentiments of the parties involved. In case a negotiated settlement is not possible, the government would favor accepting the court verdict. He also called upon the parties to show restraint. Stressing the need for finding a solution speedily and amicably, the prime minister hoped that the council meeting will immediately help cool down passions and improve the atmosphere.

Earlier, welcoming the members, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, expressed deep concern over the resurgence of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid controversy and the threat it poses to the peace and harmony of the nation. He said the center is concened over the security of the structure and is in constant touch with the state government.

The Akali Dal-Mann leader, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, was not allowed entry into the conference venue as he refused to part with the long sword he was carrying.

Addressing the meeting, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, agreed that Ayodhya issue is very important but the council should also discuss issues like Punjab and Kashmir. Other political leaders who addressed the council expressed concern over the developments in Ayodhya during the last two days.

Those who spoke included Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Mr. Swaran Singh, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet; the former prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar; the human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh; and the chief minister of Haryana, Mr. Bhajan Lal.

Resolution for Peace Adopted

BK0211163091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] A message just received says the National Integration Council has appealed to all people to maintain peace and tranquility and create an atmosphere conducive to the satisfactory settlement of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute. A resolution adopted at the end of nearly nine-hour-long meeting of the reconstituted council noted the assurances given by the Uttar Pradesh chief minister and the judgments of the Allahabad high court in the case pending before it will not be violated. The chief minister also assured the council that pending a final solution, the state government will hold itself fully responsible for the protection of the structure. He also told the meeting that the orders of the court in regard to

the land acquisition proceedings will be fully implemented and all efforts will be made to find an amicable solution to the issue.

Briefing reporters, the official spokesman said that only the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad—World Hindu Council] representative expressed reservations on the resolution.

Further on Discussions

BK0211170691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Leaders of various political parties and the chief ministers have voiced their strong concern over the disquieting developments in Ayodhya and favored an amicable solution to reduce communal tension. Participating in the day-long meeting at the reconstituted National Integration Council, which began in New Delhi this morning, they came out with several suggestions to deal with the situation. Most of them wanted that a peaceful solution should be found through negotiation, failing which the court verdict should be acceptable to all.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, who chaired the meeting in his inaugural address, called for evolving a national consensus to solve the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute. He said it is incumbent upon all of us to show restraint in whatever we say or do with regard to this controversy. The prime minister said there are other equally important and major issues like terrorism, militant and secessionist activities in certain parts of the country, and all these will be discussed by the National Integration Council to evolve consensus.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, in his welcome address said the government's action alone is not enough to meet the challenge of communalism. He said the task of promoting national integration is enormous and calls for positive contribution from all sections of the society. Mr. Chavan asked the state governments to take all measures required to deal with the situation and offered full assistance from the center.

Those who addressed the conference included Mr. V.P. Singh; Mr. Chandra Shekhar; Mr. S.R. Bommai; Dr. Farooq Abdullah; Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet; L.K. Advani; Mr. S.S. Barnala; the human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh; Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mr. Kalyan Singh; and the Haryana chief minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal.

The Akali Dal-Mann leader, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, was not allowed entry into the conference venue as he refused to part with the long sword he was carrying.

The BJP has demanded that along with Ayodhya, the Punjab and Kashmir issues should also be discussed at the National Integration Council meeting. Party leader Mr. L.K. Advani told newsmen that the Ayodhya issue can be settled through negotiations or legislation and not by the court verdict. Mr. Advani reiterated his party's stand that the disputed structure should be relocated. He criticized the nonrepresentation of the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] at the NIC.

BJP President on Ayodhya Issue

BK0411161691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The BJP says if dialogue fails the Uttar Pradesh [UP] government will pass legislation paving the way for the construction of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya. The party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, told newspersons in Calcutta today that the court has no jurisdiction in the Ayodhya issue. He said the BJP prefers an amicable and negotiated settlement. Asked if his party is creating confusion on the issue in the context of the assurance by the UP chief minister that he will obey the court verdict, the BJP president clarified that this does not mean that the UP chief minister has forfeited his right to legislate. Dr. Joshi said already negotiations are on with various Muslim bodies to solve the Ayodhya issue amicably. He said the UP government will not violate the court verdict, but it can legislate. And in that case, the court verdict will become null and void. Dr. Joshi pointed out that the parliament had overruled the Supreme Court verdict at an earlier instance.

The BJP president demanded that the state of Jammu and Kashmir be divided in three regions: Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. He said this will help develop the state and tackle simultaneously the terrorist menace effectively. He charged the center with failing to retain its authority over Jammu and Kashmir.

Uttar Pradesh Acquires Land

BK0411035291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh Government yesterday took possession of the 2.77 acres of land close to the disputed structure in Ayodhya, notification for which was issued on the seventh and tenth of last month. The district magistrate, Faizabad, told our correspondent that the land has been acquired by the administration and handed over to the state tourism department to provide facilities to the pilgrims.

It may be recalled that the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court had given permission to the state government to acquire the area but restricted it from erecting any permanent structures on the land. Meanwhile, the security arrangement in Ayodhya and Faizabad has been further tightened. Fourteen companies of paramilitary forces have been deployed in and around the disputed complex. Senior police officials are campaigning in Ayodhya to supervise the law and order situation.

Muslim Chief Criticizes Acquisition

BK0511040891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] The chief of the Indian Union Muslim League, Mr. Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait, says the center should have acted in a more forceful manner to prevent the acquisition of the disputed land in Ayodhya by the Uttar Pradesh Government. He was speaking to newsmen in Cochin.

State Protests Pakistani Statement on Minorities

BK0411151091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] India today lodged a strong protest with Pakistan against its statement regarding the protection of minorities and their places of worship in the country. Pakistan's Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel was summoned to the Foreign Office in New Delhi to convey India's deep concern over his country's attempt to interfere in India's internal affairs. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the Pakistani envoy was told that such interference is in violation of the Simla agreement.

Pakistani Aid to Rebels 'of Serious Concern'

BK0211041491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] The foreign minister says India is keen to maintain peaceful and friendly relations with Pakistan, but unfortunately Islamabad has not shown any sign of such a desire at the ground level.

Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki told UNI in Ahmedabad that imparting of training to the Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab militants by Islamabad is a matter of serious concern.

Minister Says Sovereignty Not Compromised for Loan

BK0211061791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] The finance minister says the country's economic sovereignty has not been compromised to get the IMF loan. Taking part in a panel discussions on India's economic development in Madras yesterday, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that the letter of intent sent to the IMF and its approval to be placed before parliament will prove that the government has not compromised on anything. He said market forces will not be allowed full play as state intervention is needed to protect the interests of the common people.

West Bengal on Corridor Transfer to Bangladesh

BK0211043391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] The West Bengal Government has clarified that the transfer of Tin Bigha Corridor on lease to Bangladesh in accordance with a 1982 agreement will in no way jeopardize the sovereignty of the country over the least area or prevent use by the people of West Bengal.

A state government press release issued in Calcutta said the leased corridor will be equally available for use by Indian citizens including police, paramilitary forces, and military. Administrative measures for this purpose are being worked out, the release added.

Party Says State Not Serious About Regional Talks

BK0411125691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The Janata Dal says any postponement of the proposed SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in Colombo will be a setback to the efforts being made toward strengthening regional cooperation, particularly in economic and cultural fields. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, the party spokesman, Mr. Harikishore Singh, said the government seems to be not serious about the meeting going by the reports that the external affairs minister, Mr. Solanki, will not be attending it. Mr. Singh said India, being a major country in the region, has a special responsibility to make the SAARC experiment successful.

State Minister Departs for Colombo Regional Talks

BK0411160591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, today left for Colombo to attend the meeting of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Council of Ministers. Replying to questions by newsmen, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has every intention to adhere to his scheduled visit to Colombo to attend the SAARC summit meeting. He said New Delhi is in touch with the organizers—Sri Lanka and the current chairman of SAARC, Maldives—in view of the Bhutan king expressing his inability to attend the summit.

Trishul Missile Tested for Multiple Uses

BK0311130291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] The surface-to-air missile Trishul has been successfully tested for its possible use in all the three wings of the armed forces. This has been announced by defense scientists after confirming its capability. It will undergo extensive user trials next year.

Government Launches 'Major' Arms Export Drive

BK0111162791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1111 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 1 (AFP)—India has launched a major new arms export drive, targetting Soviet-dependent countries hit by Moscow's economic slump, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Friday.

The new drive, launched by Defence Minister Sharad Pawar, set an annual target of 384 million dollars in military sales, more than seven times the 52.6 million realised last year, the agency quoted defence experts as saying.

Calling the target "ambitious" compared to the previous target of 153 million dollars, PTI said arms offered on the international market would include mountain and field guns, tanks and spare parts for Soviet-made equipment.

It also said intensive consultations were already underway with Soviet companies for the setting up of joint defence ventures in developing countries and the export of Soviet-made equipment from India to other countries.

Since the Soviet economic crisis deepened and Moscow began demanding hard currency for arms exports, India has received numerous enquiries from some of the 45 countries using Soviet-made equipment and in urgent need of spare parts and replacements, PTI said without naming the countries.

An understanding on the re-export of Soviet-made equipment from India was enhanced during a recent visit to Moscow by Indian Minister of State for Defence Krishna Kumar, it added.

Though that visit had all but been invalidated by the recent coup attempt in the Soviet Union, Pawar himself was expected to make a follow-up visit in the near future, PTI said without naming a date.

India, the fourth largest arms manufacturer in the developing world, has only recently entered the export market but has already sold 105- and 130-millimetre long-range field artillery pieces to both Vietnam and Yugoslavia.

"There is a tremendous demand for field guns, tanks and recoilless guns and we can meet these," PTI quoted an unnamed officer in charge of ordnance factories as saying.

Foreign Exchange Reserves Increase in Past 4 Months

BK0111132691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] The foreign exchange reserves of the country has gone up by about 4,000 crore rupees during the past four months. This was disclosed by the commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, while speaking at the Madras Press Club today. He warned of stern action against firms which try to misuse the eximp [export-import] scrip system by furnishing bogus bank certificates.

Iran

Mohtashemi Addresses Second Tehran Rally

LD0411191691 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—The second anti-U.S. rally of the day was staged this afternoon by Tehranis including Majlis deputies, on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the take-over of the U.S. den of espionage by students following Imam Khomeyni's path.

The rally, organised by the union of Islamic Associations of Universities and Other Higher Education Centers, converged on the former U.S. den of espionage (embassy) from Tehran University, and was addressed by Tehran MP [Member of Parliament] Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

"There is no other way to a life of freedom except a heroic encounter with the malicious enemy, the U.S. This does not mean the idea of a face-to-face war with America..." Hoj. Mohtashemi said.

"The United States fears the hidden power of Islam and Muslims. It fears whatever Iran does. The elaborate security arrangements at Madrid by America betrays its fear of Islam and Muslims," he added.

Mohtashemi thought that if such a great potential was to be exploited, the Muslims will certainly win the struggle against the superpowers, or else they will see their own doom.

He denounced the U.S.-sponsored conference in Madrid involving the illegal Zionist entity and some Arab states, and said when Britain realized that it could not maintain colonies here and there in the world it created the Zionist regime in the heart of Muslim lands.

"Arab reactionary leaders today have become slaves to the world arrogance, and the flag of Zionism and Israel is now being hoisted in all Arab countries," ponted out the Tehran MP.

The hojjat ol-eslam quoted a statement from the father of the Islamic revolution, the late Imam Khomeyni, in this regard, saying that the enemy will not forget you even though you should forget the presence of the enemy.

"Muslims, therefore, should chase the enemy into his own lair and all should fight so that the al-Aqsa mosque is liberated," urged the former interior minister.

A resolution was read at the end of the rally, calling on the Islamic Republic to draw up an elaborate defence strategy against ther "world devouring" U.S. with the students announcing their readiness to contribute to such a strategy.

It also condemned Madrid talks, and said "only the mobilization of people and other spiritual and material means will ensure the continuation of a relentless struggle against the U.S."

Underlining the need to drive outsiders from the region, the resolution condemned the defence accords signed by the U.S. and certain regional countries.

Earlier in the day, the American flag was set afire outside the spy den by demonstrators carrying effigies of a "hypocritical Uncle Sam" and "Death to the U.S."

More on Vice President's 4 Nov News Conference

LD0411190491 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Nov 91

[News conference by First Vice President Hasan Habibi with unidentified correspondents in Tehran on 4 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Mr. Habibi, cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and China within the framework of regional cooperation was one of the subjects raised in the talks between the presidents of the two countries. [sentence as heard] Could you please tell us what is the basis for this cooperation and what do you think about the propoganda—the adverse propoganda, really—which Western media have started about nuclear cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and China and also Pakistan.

[Habibi] In our talks with the Chinese president we discussed bilateral relations and cooperation with China. We also had and have relations with Pakistan. This is not a secret and is not part of Iran's secret diplomacy; it is a part of Iran's open foreign policy which includes cooperation with Pakistan and in the ECO collective; that is, the Economic Cooperation Organization. The urge for these countries in the collective is to expand their cooperation. We also have, in the entire region, a program of friendly and appropriate activities with all countries—from the countries of the southern coast of the Persian Gulf to the Sea of Oman, the Indian Ocean, and Asia. We have already said this and will say it again: Bearing in mind world developments we shall expand our cooperation with Asian countries, and we all have ample resources that can be utilized to do so.

Regarding China: This cooperation has also existed since the victory of the revolution and is continuing. But the issue being raised these days concerns especially the discussions regarding the atom [previous word in English], atomic [previous word in English] bomb, and such things. This issue has also been an open one and we have repeatedly said: Regarding the atom, our policy is the peaceful use of the atom in agriculture, health, and similar fields, and everyone is aware of what we are doing. The International Atomic Energy Agency is aware of all our activities. That we are seeking to acquire the atomic bomb is one of those big lies. We have no programs in this regard and the reason for this is quite clear: We are fundamentally against the use of destructive weapons such as atomic bombs, microbiological bombs, and chemical weapons. During the imposed Iraqi war against Iran this was proven to everyone. They did not say it at that time but admitted later that our enemy deployed chemical weapons against us, but Iran never sought to develop nuclear weapons or deploy them in spite of the fact that the technique involved is not very complex; nor is it difficult to acquire chemical weapons. Still, Iran refrained from acquiring these because she was not seeking to deploy chemical weapons. After the war everyone admitted and accepted how the Halabjah tragedy occurred and what the enemy—Iran's enemy in that war—did there.

We were among the forerunners in combating chemical weapons and participated actively in conferences that were organized to that effect. We therefore oppose the development and use of destructive weapons, and let me say that this is part of the aspirations and convictions of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We have and are pursuing another policy and have addressed it, and that is that the region has to be cleared of atomic weapons. You cannot allow one or two countries to possess atomic weapons because they are favored by global arrogance, and others be made to disarm. If the world is not to be disarmed then at least our region—the entire Near and Middle East—this region should be turned into a zone free of microbiological and atomic weapons, and those who presently have these weapons should destroy them. This is our policy regarding the various dimensions of this issue. The rest is really propoganda and a lie. And one of the reasons for this under current circumstances is that it is a response to the recent Tehran International Conference on Palestine. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Habibi, could you please inform us of the latest situation about the seizure of the Iranian vessel in Turkey, in light of the message exchanged between the two countries' presidents.

[Habibi] The latest information I have, which perhaps is from this morning, is that the situation remains the same—that is to say, the vessel is currently in Turkey. The message sent was based in general on bilateral relations, which included the issue of the vessel, and the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran's surprise at how a country such as Turkey, which has friendly relations with Iran, could have carried out such an indelicate and unlawful action. This issue was mentioned in the message that was given to Mr. Ozal, and he has promised to assist in resolving this issue. We are now waiting for, God willing, this issue to be resolved as soon as possible. I say as soon as possible, since we do not see it fit that such an action should have been carried out by a friendly and neighboring government, with which we have rarely had any problems. In any case, he has been informed of our suspicions with regard to the issue, which we consider dubious. We believe it to be a means

of upsetting our relations. He has given us a positive pledge, however, and we await its fulfillment. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Statement on Israeli Attacks

LD0411112891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Our Foreign Ministry has issued a statement expressing sympathy with the people of Lebanon and condemning the Zionist regime's aggressive and criminal actions in southern Lebanon.

The statement says: The painful news of human and material losses resulting from the Zionist regime's recent attacks on Lebanon's southern areas, which have brought death and homelessness to thousands of innocent residents of southern Lebanon, has aroused a wave of grief and sorrow.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Foreign Ministry, expressing its deep sympathy with the suffering and resisting people of Lebanon, severely condemns these actions, which are a consequence of the aggressive nature of the regime occupying Jerusalem. It considers these crimes as clear evidence that, even in circumstances in which Arabs are prepared to compromise and implement U.S. plans for the region, Israel will not cease its aggressive and expansionist actions, and that peace and security alongside the Zionist regime are nothing more than a mirage.

The Islamic Republic of Iran calls on all governments, nations, and international organizations to condemn those aggressive operations and to hasten to the aid of the suffering and homeless people of Lebanon during the current tragic situation there.

Velayati Sees Madrid Talks Reward for 'Treason'

LD0211125491 Tehran IRNA in English 1210 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said that the so-called Middle East peace conference which ended in Madrid Friday, was in fact a reward for "50 years of treason and brutality committed by the usurper Zionist enemy."

In an article printed in Saturday's issue of the morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, Velayati further added that the conference would not restore even an inch of the occupied territories to the Palestinians.

The Madrid conference, the article stressed, further revealed the hypocritic nature of the hegemonist powers in the world and also revealed that usurpation was condemned only when it threatened vital interests of imperialism.

"But when the issue in question is the Zionist regime as the strategic ally of the U.S. in the region, all slogans and allegations turn to be futile and baseless," the minister noted.

"The ridiculous so-called Middle East peace conference whose major objective is to stabilize the Zionist regime in the region and further strengthen domination of hegemonist powers, is of the same nature," Velayati maintained.

He stressed that negotiations with the Zionist regime either in the framework of the Madrid conference or in any other gathering in relation to the issue of Palestine, "has nothing to do with the Islamic world and the Palestinian people."

Larijani: U.S. Will Lose Israel, Muslim World

LD0311104791 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 3, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry advisor believes that U.S. support for the Zionist regime is part of Washington's attempt to consolidate its hegemony over the Middle East region.

In its weekly political analysis, ETTELA'AT carried an article titled 'Future of the Middle East', written by Mohammad Javad Larijani who is also a member of the Supreme National Security Council.

The article noted however that the U.S. would have to pay for engineering such a plot because "the Islamic world is becoming more sensitive towards U.S. hegemony and as a result the U.S. would not only lose Israel but the Muslim world as well."

It pointed to the statements of the Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the so-called Madrid peace conference this week in which he admitted that intifadah was the main source of intimidation for Israel and that Iran was leading the Islamic movement against the Zionist enemy.

"Today, the Palestinian cause is being discussed as an 'Islamic' issue and this marks the beginning of a new era in the history of the Zionist occupation of the Palestinian territories," Larijani maintained.

It is at this stage that the Palestinians should organize their movement since the present leadership, despite all its past devotions and lengthy struggles, has lost its efficiency and even its legitimacy, Larijani noted.

Therefore, he concluded, the Islamic movement in Palestine should gain the leadership and the new leadership should rely on Islamic principles and act accordingly.

Madrid Conference 'Day of Shame, Grief'

LD3010162691 Tehran IRNA in English 1349 GMT 30 Oct 91

[Text] Madrid, Oct. 30, IRNA—In what is considered by the majority of Muslims as a "day of shame and grief", but regarded by the West as "historic" the U.S. sponsored Middle East conference started in Madrid Wednesday morning.

If the weather could be taken as an omen for the success or failure of this first direct talks between Arabs and Israel, then the propsects look gloomy. Madrid is shrouded with clouds and fog.

Hinting to the uncertain mood prevailing here, U.S. President George Bush in his 20-minute inaugural speech cautioned that "no one can say with any precision what the end result would be." He pledged that the U.S. would continue playing an active role for the conference to succeed. Bush said that a framework of diplomacy already existed for the Arabs and Israel to work on.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker toured the region eight times after the Persian Gulf war to arrange the conference that may lead to the recognition of Israel by the Arab states.

"Negotiations will be conducted in stages beginning with talks on interim self-government. We aim to reach agreement within one year. And once agreed interim self-government arrangements will last for five years," Bush said. Starting from the third year, negotiations will begin on the permanent status, he said, apparently referring to Palestinian self-rule in territories occupied by Israel in 1967.

Delegates to the conference were seated around a T-shaped table in the historic Royal Palace of Madrid. The Israeli delegation, led by Yitzhaq Shamir, was flanked by the Egyptian and Lebanese delegations, facing opposite the delegations from Syria, the European Community and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Delegates from the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council, the U.N. and the North African Maghreb Union, which have observer status, were seated some metres behind the table. The Saudi ambassador to Washington, Bandar Bin Sultan, is a member of the (P)GCC team.

Arabs, opposing the so-called peace conference have dubbed it as the "conference of capitulation." The head of the Zionist regime, Yitzhaq Shamir, has repeatedly said he would not trade peace for land, as proposed by Egypt. But Arab observers here feel he will drop his hardline attitude once negotiations start.

Officially inaugurating the conference, host Prime Minister Filipe Gonzalez noted that Spain "in its long history has known the fruitful coexistence of the three cultures (Muslim, Jewish and Christian) represented in the conference." Gonzalez called for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

George Bush, citing the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, said peace between Arabs and Israel was possible. He said the real work will not happen in the plenary sessions, but in direct talks between Arabs and Israelis.

Jordan and Egypt had sat together with Israel in Geneva in 1973 after the Ramadan war in an unsuccesful attempt to talk peace. The talks failed but it opened the door for the visit of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to Israel and to the signing of the Camp David accord in 1979. Washington and Tel Aviv are hoping that something similar will happen again.

Bush also referred to the U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis of negotiations. The resolutions call for the withdrawal of Israel from Palestinian territories occupied in the 1967 war.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, called the co-sponsor of the Mideast conference, in his speech stressed that the conference was "of importance for the entire world" and said it was "a unique opportunity for Arab-Israeli peace." The Soviet Union, having lost its superpower position after the collapse of communism, has in fact only a ceremonial role. It is also wrong to call it the co-sponsor. Moscow merely accepted the U.N proposal to convene the conference.

Commentary on 'Concessions' to U.S., Israel

LD0111224691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The first phase of the Madrid conference concluded. Thus, after 43 years, since the illegal establishment of the Zionist state in Jerusalem, the long-cherished dream of the Zionist regime and its supporters are being apparently materialized.

On the first day of the conference, which was held on Wednesday, after the speech made by the U.S. President Bush, almost everything was made clear and it was known that in the current round of talks held between the Arabs and Israel, no result other than the Arabs accepting the Zionist regime as an official party had not been in mind. In his speech George Bush, while knowing that Israelis had (?at last retreated one step from their formerly announced position), spoke of good-neighborly relations between Israel and its neighbors without referring to the necessity of its opposition to Jewish settlements and of occupied territories by the Zionist regime. (?With) his proposal that a temporary self-management should be given to the Palestinians residing in the occupied territories, George Bush attempted to adopt a so-called neutral stance in the peace conference.

Mikhail Gorbachev's (?word) and his speech at the Madrid conference was (?neutral) too, and it could be guessed in advance as to what purpose the Soviet president would participate in the Madrid peace conference. [passage omitted]

Yitzhaq Shamir's speech constituted an extremely interesting point at the Madrid peace conference. To the amazement of everyone, he considered talks on territories occupied by Israel as a factor behind the deadline and described the (?exposure of the danger of confrontation with Israel) in holding talks as well as its handing of the [words indistinct] as the aim behind the talks.

Nevertheless, the statements made by the Arab parties taking part in the Madrid conference have interesting points too. The foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt were officials who delivered speeches in the first round of talks, and Western news agencies attempted to interpret the statements as revolutionary, since the whole participation in the Madrid conference is considered as treason in the eyes of the public opinion of the Islamic ummah.

These statements were listened to with utmost (?hatred). Jordan's foreign minister, in reaction to Yitzhaq Shamir's statement, said: If the occupied territories are not the topic for discussion, what are we doing in Madrid, then? The Syrian foreign minister, too, in a speech, described the Zionist regime's view as (?hard) and condemned it and called for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution as well as the establishment of peace in the region.

At any rate, what is worth mentioning is that the achievement of the first round of peace talks in Madrid is the recording of two concessions in favor of the United States and Israel, for the United States in its long-term strategy has the idea of permanent and strengthened relations with the Arab countries in the [word indistinct] and within the framework of the first round of Madrid conference it has taken another step in realizing this. The Zionist regime, too, while claiming its (?entity) to the acceptance as an independent country by the Arab states, and it seems that it has reached a bright perspective.

Madrid Summit 'Most Unsuitable' for Arab Position

LD0211084191 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 2 Nov 91

["The M.E. Peace Process—Arabs To Lose Both 'Land and Peace'"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Madrid, Nov. 2, IRNA—The ceremonial 3-day U.S.-arranged Middle East conference, aimed at preparing for direct talks between the Arabs and Israel by breaking the 43-year old psychological and other barriers, ended in Madrid Friday with Israel achieving its main goals—recognition of its illegal existence by the Arab world. Israel is also close to achieving its second major aim—direct talks. It knows very well that bilateral talks with Arab states means a straight path to Camp David-like treaty that will bury the Palestinian question once and for all.

The Arab delegations, after a meeting in Madrid Friday night, said they would consult their governments before they agree to direct negotiations with Israel. Soon after the bilateral talks commence, probably in Madrid on Sunday, the U.S. and Israel want multilateral negotiations to follow on such issues like water, security, economic cooperation and arms control. But what did the Arabs and Palestinians gain from this first face-to-face conference between Arabs and Israelis since the creation of the Zionist state in 1948?

"I cannot answer you this question. I think the Palestinians gained nothing. The Arabs lost everything," a member of the organizing committee of the Palestinian team, comments, requesting anonymity. Replying to the same question, Albert Taraziyan, the Christian Palestinian press spokesman for the Palestinian delegation says: "For the first time ever I think the Palestinian voice has been heard all over the world. Palestinians have clearly dismissed the fallacy that they are the aggressors. We were caught up in a very distorted international field that the Palestinians are the aggressors."

"We clearly made the point that it is Israel which is the aggressor," he underlined.

"We have been victimized too much, marginalized too much and beaten by the so-called new world order and we have come out making our point clear that we are a people with basic rights in the land of Palestine."

"We have been recharged to face the challenges ahead," he said.

For the American policy-makers the Madrid conference was a major test for their new world order in the Middle East that is based on three pillars, security of Israel, cheap flow of oil and prevention of the Islamic world from uniting. Taking place at the heels of the Persian Gulf war that created deep rifts in the Arab-Islamic world and the destruction of Iraq, the timing of the conference was most unsuitable for the Arabs. They went to Madrid, suffering under the trauma of the Persian Gulf war debacle, with a very weak bargaining position. Israel, well aware of this fact, refused to budge an inch from its radical position. It rejected even to consider withdrawing from occupied Arab territories or stopping new Jewish settlements, a basic demand of the Arab-Palestinian side. All the concerned parties agreed in Madrid that achieving of peace is a "long process," which means that the suffering of the Muslim Palestinian people inside occupied Palestine would continue as usual. Appeals by Arabs and Palestinians for the implementation of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 calling for the Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands fell on deaf ears.

The Madrid conference, wrongly portrayed as co-sponsored by Washington and Moscow, was planned, prepared and conducted by the U.S. only. The fact that neither the media nor the participants attached any importance to the speeches of the Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his Foreign Minister Boris Pankin indicates that Moscow's participation in Madrid

was merely ceremonial. Bush wanted Gorbachev's presence in Madrid to underline that the "cold war was over" and that the U.S.-dominated new world order was taking shape.

The "land for peace" offer by Arabs to Israel—an entity exisiting on expansionist designs—could turn out to be very dangerous. The Arabs could lose both "land and peace."

Papers Cast Doubts on Goodwill of Madrid Talks

LD0211093791 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—Two dailies today commented on the Madrid conference and cast doubts if it would have anything for the Arabs.

The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in its editorial referred to the recent call by the Israeli Premier Yitzaq Shamir for condemnation of jihad against the Zionist regime and of the Tehran conference on Palestine.

Also pointing to a letter handed over to the United Nations by the Zionist regime in protest to the holding of the Tehran confab and its final declaration, the paper said these attempts aimed at pressuring the intimidated Arab leaders. It said the depth of the Palestine question was more comprehensible now than any other time and there was no ambiguity to prevent a thorough assessment of the issue.

All evidences indicate that the Madrid conference would not bring anything for the Arabs and with regards to the policy the Arab front has been following so far it would be even to their detriment.

The daily stressed that the only goal of the meeting is to establish the Zionist regime and compel the intimidated Arab front to recognize Israel's sovereignty.

The daily warned all the governments attending the Madrid conference who thought their future was in the hands of the Zionist regime, that it was rather the nations who would decide their fate.

"If the nations lose their toleration and become fed up, among the first measures they would take would be putting aside governments in retaliation for their unforgivable treacheries," it concluded.

The English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL questioning the Madrid conference said there were many objectives and concerns in the Middle East that the conference failed to deal with.

It said Zionist agents and their advocates have started a campaign simultaneous to the Spanish gathering to let the idea flat that the Palestinians already have their homeland and that it is not occupied by the Zionist regime but by Jordan.

Referring to the statements by the two sides vowing not to compromise on territory and that of U.S. President George Bush that territorial compromise is essential for peace, the daily said "with Zionist extremists at the negotiating table and Arabs already disarmed, disunited and humiliated, it will be interesting to learn the modalities of the U.S. peace formula in which fairness and security for all sides has been envisaged."

"There are many concerns and objectives in the Muslim Mideast which Madrid does not address. The conference can and, in all likelihood, will impose a solution in defiance of the respect for the rights of the Palestinian people. Thus many end watching and hoping for a durable peace between the Arabs and Israel. But open minds remain unimpressed and disturbed by peace talks co-sponsored by the U.S. and the Soviet Union. If nothing else Palestinian rights will be up for sale as its advocates remain outside the conference."

Commentary Views Arab Opposition to Madrid Talks

LD0211213691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] With the termination of the first phase of the Madrid peace talks between the Israeli and Palestinian Arab delegations, it is scheduled that the conference continues its proceedings as of Sunday by conducting bilateral talks in the Spanish capital. This is under the conditions when reaction to this conference is assuming wider dimensions amongst the Muslims in Islamic and Arab states. In order to confront protests and demonstrations being staged by the Palestinian Muslims in the various cities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Zionist regime has imposed curfew regulations.

At the same time, Jordan's Ikhwan-al Muslemin [Muslim Brotherhood] organization and opposition parties have formed a political coalition in protest against the Madrid peace conference. In a statement, this coalition, while opposing the submissive policy, described the Madrid conference a ruinous gathering. Extensive demonstrations have also been held against the Madrid conference by the Muslims in Turkey, Pakistan, and Algeria.

Reports from Algiers say that hundreds of thousands of the Algerian Muslims supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front [ISF], and various Islamic parties gathered in the Algerian capital yesterday. At this huge gathering, 'Abdul Qader Rakhshani, the ISF spokesman, who was released from jail recently termed the Madrid conference another Camp David accord, and noted: The Jews chose Spain so as to laugh at the Muslims. By stressing that Palestine is not Arabic but Islamic in nature, he said: It is Islam alone that will liberate Palestine.

The widening wave of protests in Islamic and Arab states against the Madrid conference is worth pondering from the viewpoint that the gathering and the U.S. peace plan

for a compromise between Israel and the Arabs are in line with the latest U.S. policy in the Middle East. Existing evidence confirms that the U.S. efforts for drawing the Arabs and Israel into a compromise [word indistinct] to emanating from the realities in the region is rooted in global developments and the format of the new world order, especially in the wake of the cold war era and the termination of the Persian Gulf war. In this same connection, the Madrid conference has been successful because it has managed to somehow get the Zionist regime recognized by its neighbors. But the main issue relates to its acceptance by the Muslim and Arab nations.

While confronting the Zionist enemy which is constantly trying to enhance its expansionist designs, they have not made any shift in their anti-Zionist stance. The reason is that Palestinian and the Arab masses in the region believe America cannot act as mediator in the peace negotiations. The U.S. endeavors toward convening the peace conference are aimed at legitimizing Israel, maintaining its security, and making it enter a new era of ties in the region. All this will be fetched by the White House probably through granting only a semblance of the privileges sought by the Arab states. However, in the event of the realization of this goal, no guarantee can be imagined for the enforcement of those privileges.

Official Calls Madrid Talks 'Degrading'

NC0211173891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] The secretary general of the International Conference of Support for the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine described the Madrid conference as degrading and said that the Palestinian issue is the most important issue of the Islamic world. He noted: The Muslim people of Palestine who have risen up, will, with the help of their Islamic ideology and the continuation of the intifadah, eventually attain their rights.

Musavi-Lari was speaking to our correspondent when he said that the Madrid conference will bring nothing but disgrace and humiliation for the participants. The sole means of resolving the Palestinian issue is to terminate the rule of the usurpist Jerusalem regime from Palestinian territories, he said.

Arab countries participating in the conference should not barter the aspirations of Palestine to solve their own problems, he concluded.

Mohajerani Discusses Islamic Nuclear Programs

NC0111132591 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 23 Oct 91 pp 1, 4

["Exclusive" interview with Seyyed 'Ataollah Mohajerani, deputy president for legal and parliamentary affairs, with unidentified ABRAR correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] [ABRAR] In your opinion, how successful has the Tehran conference been in attaining practical ways to solve the Palestinian problem?

[Mohajerani] We are convening the international conference to support the Islamic revolution of the Palestinian people at a time when attaining practical development depends on the current circumstances. This means that talking about the issue, in and of itself, can be seen as a way of seeking a solution, especially now when all the powers are trying to "extinguish" the Palestinian issue.

We should understand that in the policy being pursued by the United States and the Soviet Union, the latter is functioning as a support for the United States and all their efforts are aimed at sweeping the Palestinian issue under the rug.

Palestine was occupied in the first half of the 20th century. We are now in the second half of the 20th century and conditions are being created to legitimize the usurpation of Palestine. The United States has created a situation in which there is no mention of the Palestinian issue, no mention of the Palestinian nation, and no mention of the Palestinians returning to their homeland.

All the Palestinian peoples' rights are being considered as if they did not exist. Former Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh told 'Arafat at the Geneva airport that the Jerusalem issue was obsolete following his meeting in Cairo with James Baker. Baker had said earlier that some practical steps were being taken in this issue.

The other point is that Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, told the Tehran conference that the Palestinian National Council session in Algeria did not even mention the Palestinians' returning to their homeland. The issue was not even considered on the agenda. In my opinion, conditions have been created today for substantive discussions on the issues of Palestine, the Palestinian people, and the liberation of these territories.

The above three issues themselves demand that a solution is agreed upon in spite of the fact that today the Americans, Israelis, and a group of those who have become known as Arab pragmatists are saying that the only solution to the problem lies in the official recognition of Israel and peaceful coexistence with the Zionists, a process initiated by Egypt.

The Tehran conference is an opportunity for all Palestinian groups and Islamic countries with common beliefs. I do not believe that we need to hurry to find a solution. If we were to discuss whether the solution lies in armed struggle or the continuation of the intifadah, we would not be addressing the problem because the enemies have all the resources and equipment. Until the Muslims gain access to these resources, talking about a practical solution is premature.

In the face of an armed adversary with all the resources and equipment, the Muslims should be able to create a balance with the enemy. If this balance is not reached, the path of the Muslims will be thwarted. However, we should remember what President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said about the difference between us and the others: We have our eyes on distant horizons. If we only see the present, we will have to surrender because circumstances today favor the enemy. If we look to the future, however, we should be hopeful that Palestine will ultimately be liberated.

This issue has a historical precedent. In 1099 A.D. Jerusalem was occupied by the Crusaders, and in 1100 A.D. one of the Christian lords was chosen king of Jerusalem. One hundred years later, however, the Muslims liberated it. Jerusalem was initially occupied for 100 years before the first phase of liberation. The occupation was a military occupation and the liberation was achieved by military means.

The occupation in the first half of this century, however, was not merely a military occupation; it was the cultural occupation of a civilization. Muslims, therefore, should not tackle it only in a military way. They should utilize all other resources to liberate Jerusalem. We should be hopeful that we will reach that stage as well; that is, Palestine will be liberated. It may even happen in this century. What is important is that we obtain the necessary "means" to take us on the liberation "path." What this means is that the "path" and the "means" are equally important.

For example, Israel has attained a nuclear capacity. No Islamic country should consider this an issue of secondary importance; in other words, in view of the enemy's nuclear capabilities, the Islamic countries should also have nuclear facilities.

We see that Iraq's nuclear capability, regardless of its extent, has been destroyed by various means. A series of contacts have taken place between India and Israel to destroy Pakistan's nuclear facilities. They even asked Sri Lanka to allow them to use an air base from which to launch an attack on the installations.

This means that Israel has created a danger zone. This regime wants to continue to have the upper hand; one way of doing this is to have a nuclear capability. The Muslims, therefore, also need to take measures to achieve progress in various fields and, God willing, they will attain those objectives.

[ABRAR] We have seen recently that the Western mass media are alleging that Iran is violating nuclear regulations. They have also made insinuations about international sanctions against Iran as well. Don't you think that if we gained access to nuclear capabilities similar to Israel, they would be prone to Western attack?

[Mohajerani] I did not mean one particular country. The Islamic countries should collectively utilize their resources to achieve nuclear strength. We can defend this to the world by saying that Israel should not be allowed to have a nuclear capability; that is, what was done to Iraq should also be done to Israel.

The nuclear capability of the Muslims and of Israel should be equal or neither should have any; otherwise, if Israel has nuclear capabilities, so should the Muslims. This is no longer an issue that has to be decided by the United Nations, the Security Council, or an investigative committee. In other words, the question is not one of any one particular country.

It is possible that just as we organized this conference, the Islamic countries should collectively pool their material, technical and technological resources to reach this objective. This is feasible. We have enough scholars, financial power, information, etc. Naturally we cannot talk to an enemy politely.

[ABRAR] The stance of the Iranian Government, especially the remarks by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on the convocation of this conference has been termed a hostile act by the Western media. They claim that Tehran has gathered terrorists in order to continue its hostile acts. What measures have been envisaged to counteract this propaganda so that an adequate response is provided, especially in view of ABRAR's suggestion that the Islamic mass media coordinate?

[Mohajerani] In my view, the Western propaganda against the Tehran conference merits attention. Today I saw a report from a CNN correspondent from Tehran who had sent a brief picture of the conference during a cleric's address. Immediately following the picture was footage of people standing in lines in Tehran, focusing on the faces of some tired people; for example, an old woman said that economic problems abound and various commodities cannot be found in the stores, and so on.

It is obvious that this is a calculated propaganda ploy. For example, another Western network filmed some empty seats which obviously belonged to participants who had left the hall to go outside for a while to rest.

All this indicates that they have initiated a propaganda war against the Tehran conference part of which includes allegations that Tehran has brought together terrorists. If you look at the participants, however, numerous parliamentary delegations are attending the conference as well as four or five speakers of the parliaments of Algerian, Libya, and Jordan. Even Shaykh Sa'd, the Palestinian National Council speaker, is attending the conference.

The Western media only mentions people like "Anis Naqqash" who has been seen in this conference. They only mention terrorism and violation of human rights now when the Tehran conference is discussing issues like the liberation of Palestine and the victory of the Palestinian nation to overshadow the Tehran conference in practice, by means of their propaganda.

Of course, one of the problems today is that unfortunately, the news networks are in the hands of our enemies. Even when we want to get world news, we get it from the same news agencies. At precise moments these news agencies play their role; for example, when the Soviet Union and the United States decided to convene the Madrid conference and the Tehran conference was seen as a threat, they initiated a massive propaganda clamor about issues like economic problems.

For the same reason they viewed the remarks of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran as hostile in their various analyses even though the liberation of holy Jerusalem and Palestine is part of the aspirations of the Islamic revolution and its strategic objectives. If we were to renounce this stance, it would be tantamount to negation of our very system.

[ABRAR] In your capacity as deputy president, can you pursue the proposal to establish a joint Islamic news agency similar to the joint Islamic military force proposed at the conference to confront the Western press reports?

[Mohajerani] Discussing this issue is no problem; however, really doing something would require the determination of all the heads of states. This would be easier to do by establishing an economic common market and culminating in establishing a common Islamic military force.

You can see countries that at one time were proclaimed as the steadfastness front—that is, Libya, Algeria, and Syria—now have different traits. In addition, it does not appear that they will be able to achieve a unified, logical, and practical determination. Therefore, however logical this proposal may be, it is not very practical. Proposing it is possible; however, it may be impracticable to do anything, and in the future it may well be construed as a weakness.

First, we should take steps to ensure that the Islamic countries can agree on major issues. Only then can we discuss creating a common news agency.

[ABRAR] What do you think of the Iraqi proposals presented at the conference on Monday, 21 October, that Islamic countries allocate 1 percent of their budgets for Palestine or boycott American goods? In general, how do you view the positions of the Iraqi and Libyan Governments, the only ones at the conference to oppose the Madrid conference?

[Mohajerani] I do not have the exact report on Iraq's condemnation of the Madrid conference. the Iraqi delegation which participated in the Tehran conference said, however, that their presence here is tantamount to a condemnation of the Madrid conference. If we accept that this is the Iraqi Government's stance, we should welcome it as positive. This is a correct position and one that will strengthen agreement among Muslim and Arab countries (something the Western countries oppose). This is useful.

We do not see Iraq's proposals to the investigative committee as negative. All proposals are treated in an understanding manner and many of them will be incorporated in the statement. The idea of allocating 1 percent for Palestine is quite specific and quantitative. The Islamic Republic of Iran has never hesitated to extend all types of assistance to the "intifadah" in the past, and we welcome the suggestion.

[ABRAR] In your opinion, will the Madrid conference give rise to new relationships among the Arabs and the Palestinians? If so, what will be the nature of such alliances?

[Mohajerani] Such affiliations have already taken place; nothing else will emerge later. Most of the factions have condemned the Madrid conference and many of them are at present in Tehran. The Arab countries which have condemned it are also very outspoken. In fact, this sort of affiliation can clearly be seen.

The point we should emphasize is whether countries like Syria, which have been making statements, put their words into practice and, if so, to what extent. The Syrians have said that Israel should evacuate the occupied lands. Of course, by this Syria means the lands occupied in 1967 and afterwards. What remains to be seen is whether Jerusalem is also to be included in this demand.

How we define occupied lands is important. If Syria takes a stance on the evacuation of all occupied lands from (1967 onwards), and includes Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, it will become clear that another grouping is taking shape among the Arab countries. In this case, if Syria adheres to this stance and if Israel does not accept it and does not participate in the conference, we may be able to see greater solidarity among the abstaining front, which can be called a new steadfastness front.

Of course, it is natural that we in the Islamic Republic of Iran have a different position because we see Israel as the usurper of all the occupied territories, not merely parts of it. At times when the occupied territories are mentioned, the implication is the lands occupied in 1967 and afterwards, which means that they officially recognize the areas occupied in 1948, but we (in the Islamic Republic of Iran) do not.

[ABRAR] You mentioned that if Syria resists, it will lead to the creation of a new steadfastness front. Husni Mubarak and Butrus Ghali, however, have said that the peace process may be a lengthy one. Apparently, the United States wants to prolong the conference because it wants to drag Arab and Muslim forces into a process of attrition culmination in official recognition of Israel. What is your opinion?

[Mohajerani] The Israelis have a saying which they repeat frequently: "One hundred years of talks are better than one day of war." Naturally the Israelis are sensitive on the issue of war and wish to stay as far from it as

possible. They have a reason. If we take away all the aid being given to Israel, not one of the Jews would be prepared to die for Israel; they lack the faith. This is why when some missiles hit Tel Aviv, a lot of Jews abandoned their homes. This proves that they merely seek a comfortable life and are not inclined to fighting.

However, in today's wars the human role has been greatly reduced; technology plays a far greater role. In addition, as far as negotiations are concerned, Israel holds more trump cards in its hands, one of which is U.S. support.

The second card is the Soviet Union, which has in reality been reduced to a shadow of the United States. The other cards are the United Nations, the Security Council, and other international organizations which mostly defend Israel.

We have seen in practice that UN resolutions, the Security Council, the United States, and others want to strengthen Israel and, therefore, extort more concessions. Abu Iyad wrote: When Al- Sadat accepted all the conditions, Menachem Begin forced him to use Jewish names in the official statement to humiliate him. For example, the names "Judea" and "Samarrah." Islamic names were not even permitted. It appears that the winning cards will be in Israel's hands during negotiations.

[ABRAR] If Syria resists and adheres to its stance on the issues that you mentioned and is instrumental in creating a steadfastness front, won't it result in the attrition of Arab forces and won't Syria be isolated?

[Mohajerani] We would be on Syria's side so it will not be alone. Libya and a group of other Palestinians will also support it. Most important of all, however, is the nation itself. In Egypt, recently people have been putting up posters condemning the Madrid conference. The most important point is that in Islamic countries the governments cannot always make the decisions. If the people decide to govern their own destiny such treaties have no value. What is important is that the correct path is taken.

We should, therefore, be hopeful that this path will be strengthened with the passage of time. If Syria were to resist, the Madrid conference would fail. This means that Syria is a key player in the Madrid conference, and other countries would support their stance.

[ABRAR] In your opinion, in practice what obstacles lie in the path of the proposals put forth by the participating delegations for the liberation of Palestine?

[Mohajerani] The main problem in implementing these recommendations lies with the governments. For example, various groups propose establishing a common armed forces among the Islamic countries. First and foremost the leaders of those countries should accept this. If they do not, the forces will be limited to those countries which do accept.

However what is important is that this juncture marks the beginning of a correct move. In my opinion the Madrid conference is the end of one path and the Tehran conference the beginning of another. Even before it has started, the Madrid conference has proved in practice that it is a conference of surrender, not one of peace.

In Tehran, the consensus is that there should be a collective move the timing of which is not terribly important right now, as mentioned by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Perhaps our offspring will achieve the results or even perhaps their children. What is important is that we choose the correct path and move ahead.

Naturally these proposals will not be implemented immediately. Some Islamic countries may not allocate the 1 percent for the intifadah but this does not mean that this will be the case always. We should begin the along the path and, God willing, we will reach the point where this issue will be resolved.

U.S. Daily Report on Nuclear Arms Sale Rejected

LD0211091291 Tehran IRNA in English 0804 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Saturday said the tactics used by the U.S. to force countries to conform with its policies, were often presented as 'rewards' and 'punishments' to force them to fall in line with U.S. perception of a new world order.

Pointing to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a tool which has been used against North Korea, Pakistan and China, the paper's editorial said:

"Beijing's questioning on the discriminatory compliance with restrictions on the sale of nuclear material this time prompted a usual 'leaked' claim by THE WASHINGTON POST, which included attempted smears linking Iran as a recipient but which President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has rightfully denounced as 'lying propaganda'."

Irrespective of the rights and wrongs over nuclear arms, the paper said "Washington has not any right to impose its will over others by smears and threats, which need exposing and renouncing for what they are."

It concluded by urging support for such countries as China and North Korea, "which is also entangled in a U.S. campaign of hostility, for standing up to American double-standards."

Paper Cited on Nuclear Weapons Proliferation

LD0311185991 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 3, IRNA—The English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Sunday said the United States is "hypocritical" in its motive for advising Iran to write off its scheme for nuclear development.

It said previously the U.S. deliberately condoned Iraq's efforts for developing nuclear capability, flattering itself that Iraq would some day use its nuclear weapons against Iran, but that as soon as Iraq declared that it would use nuclear technology for other purposes "the whole Iraqi research programme became illegal and a threat to international peace."

The daily said if refusal to sign the nuclear non-proliferation pact is sufficient ground for threatening peace then the Zionist regime should top the list of the countries which pose a threat to world peace. "The number of Israel's nuclear warheads have not been revealed but they are estimated to be in the dozens—if not in the hundreds."

It noted that despite the total eclipse of the "communist threat", Washington which pretends to pioneer the anti-nuclear campaign throughout the world has refused to dismantle the bulk of its own nuclear weapons.

The daily adverted to recent contacts between Iran and China for evaluating the latter country's capacity for resuming work on an incomplete nuclear power plant in Iran, saying Iran is only tendering to find an eventual substitute contractor to Germany which has not fullfilled its contractual commitment in the project.

It said Iran has reaffirmed that it will use the plant solely for peaceful purposes and especially as a source for supplementing domestic generation of electricity which assertion, "seems to be falling on deaf ears."

KAYHAN said an examination of the facts should convince "any impartial party" of Iran's intention "that it is only interested in the field for application in peaceful purposes."

Even though, it added, Iran should one day be able to develop nuclear weapons its nuclear capacity will be practically nil in comparison with many other countries which now boast of many times as much capacity.

"This is not to mention that efforts, if any, by the Islamic Republic to develop nuclear capability for the sake of weapons would expose the country to a great deal of instability and danger. Because as a newcomer into the field, with its limited scientific resources, it would be only a novice and a few bombs will not bring international prestige of any kind for Iran," said the daily.

Fadlallah: U.S. 'Main Hurdle' to Hostage Release

NC0111204791 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Oct 91 p 2

[By 'Ali 'Ayyari]

[Text] Tehran—A leading Lebanese 'alim considers that the Tehran Palestine conference sponsored by the Iranian Majles "is a landmark in the way of achieving Palestinian aspirations."

Ayatollah Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said the time when the Tehran conference was held was "very sensitive" as the U.S. and Soviet sponsored so-called peace conference is being held this month in which the rulers are participating.

The difference between the Madrid and Tehran conferences is that one in Tehran was held for achieving the main objectives of the Palestinians and Muslim ummah while in Madrid efforts will be made to sell the aspirations of the Palestinians and Muslims.

"The Madrid conference will represent the oppressors while in Tehran the oppressed or their supporters met to find the way for the solution to this vital Islamic problem," Shaykh Fadlallah told the TEHRAN TIMES.

Those who are supposed to go to Madrid will serve the interests of the Zionists and not the Palestinians, he said. The participants at the Madrid conference will also make room for the interests of America in this sensitive region of the Middle East, the 'alim who arrived here to participate at the Tehran conference, which ended last Tuesday, said.

"We can easily say that the rulers of the region who decided to attend the conference have acted against the wishes of the peoples of their own countries," the shaykh said.

He said the sole objective of the Madrid conference is to give recognition to the illegal entity of the Zionist regime which is contrary to the interest of the enture Ummah of Islam.

Commenting on the demands of the participants at the Madrid conference Fadlallah said that the formula of the exchange of the occupied lands with the recognition of Israel will be a treachery against Palestinians who even after that will remain refugees. "I warn that the Madrid conference will create a number of as yet unknown dangers in this region," he said.

Explaining his point of views Fadlallah said that as a result of this so-called peace conference the peoples of this region will face the worst humiliation and it will pave the way for more oppression here.

On the issue of hostages Fadlallah said that the efforts of the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar are bringing fruits and maybe it will reach a final stage. "I have this opinion that through diplomacy the hostage issue could be solved," he said and pointed out that the hostage issue can be solved if it is viewed in terms of all hostages including, Iranian, Lebanese, Palestinian and the Westerners. "But," he said, "if you just talk about the Western hostages and ignore the others it would create problems in the way to the solution of this problem."

"What I know is that the U.S. is the main hurdle in the way for the release of all hostages and as long as that country continues this policy no solution is in sight," Shaykh Fadlallah said.

Israeli UN Envoy Protests Tehran Conference

LD0111140591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] The permanent representative of the Jerusalem-occupying regime at the United Nations, in a letter to the secretary general yesterday, protested the Islamic Republic of Iran government's having held a conference in Tehran in support of the Islamic revolution of the people of Palestine and said it was an open invitation to war against Israel.

The permanent representative of the Zionist regime refers in that letter to the remarks made by the Islamic Republic of Iran's leaders and officials, and adds: The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced during the inauguration ceremony of the Tehran conference Iran's readiness to dispatch forces to fight beside Palestinians, and against Israel, and also said that he hopes the conference would result in Muslim steadfastness against Israel and its regional supporters.

The letter refers to the 28-point statement of the Tehran conference published on 23 October in the TEHRAN TIMES newspaper—which stresses the necessity of for the annihilation of Zionism and a declaration of jihad against the Zionist regime; condemns U.S. efforts in setting up the so-called Madrid peace conference; stresses the establishment of a Jerusalem liberation army within the armed forces of the Islamic countries. The statement adds: Basically, the Iranian Government has not confined itself to propaganda attacks on Israel, but ideologically and in practice supports the groups which oppose the peace process.

Pakistan Support for Tehran Conference Praised

NC0411131591 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 22 Oct 91 pp 6, 12

[M. Mollahzadeh commentary: "Tehran Conference and the Support of the Pakistani Scholars"]

[Excerpts] The International Conference for the Support of the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine in Tehran was favorably received by prominent Pakistani political and intellectual figures, who hailed it an important and fundamental step to defend oppressed Palestinian Muslims' hallowed aspirations.

The Pakistanis were apprehensive about the conference favored by the U.S. and occupied Jerusalem's regime in Madrid, terming it a plot against Arabs and Islam.

One of the leaders of the Jamiat-e 'Ulema-e Islami, Pir Syed Haroon Shah said that when the first qiblah is under Israeli occupation, talks with a usurpist regime betray the Islamic ummah's lofty objectives, and participants in the Middle East peace conference will be taken to task.

Prominent Sunni congregational leader Maulana Pir Mohammad Chishti described the Middle East peace conference a shameful plot against Islam, adding that the United States wants to consolidate Israeli preponderance over the world of Islam.

Prominent Pakistani scholars' positions indicate Islamic scholars are aware of the depth of domineering world powers' plots supporting the Zionists. They also back the Islamic Revolution strongly against compromising plots.

This is even more significant since the present juncture is very sensitive and fateful for Palestine, where the Islamic revolution faces the most extensive, calculated, planned and extremely dangerous plot—which can be compared to the period between the two world wars and 1948's danger peak. [passage omitted]

Efforts are being made to legitimize a regime considered illegitimate by the recognized norms of the civilized world through history. It is an aggressive and expansionist regime, which should not and cannot attain legitimacy. It is a serious matter on which Islam's scholars should stand alongside Muslim nations and publicly denounce the so-called Middle East peace conference. There can be no peace between the tyrant and the tyrannized. The tyrant wishes to impose his conditions in the name of peace, and the tyrannized, though unable to demand his rights, has the right to say no, to refuse tyranny, and to declare that he has been tyrannized and his rights jeopardized.

The United States and its allies seek to wrest the Palestinian nation's rights. Do Muslims not have a right to shout that the Arab nations have no link with humiliated Arab leaders? [passage omitted]

Has anyone asked: Why have the Zionists, armed to the teeth, been unable to stop Muslim Palestinian youths whose greatest armor is firm faith in their path's truth? The youths in the occupied territories have only pieces of bricks and sticks, so why could they not be quelled by the Zionists? The movement can proliferate and the Arab ummah will devise new formulae to suit the struggle.

Compromise with Arab reactionary leaders is tantamount to shackling the Arab ummah, which cannot be fettered for long for it would contradict history. The Islamic revolution of Iran can coordinate the new tactics for the Muslim struggle against Islam's enemies. The Tehran conference is being directed this way, performing its responsibility, and it can be assumed that the peace conference plot, even with a facade of success, will face certain defeat. The world of Islam awaits it.

It is an Islamic obligation to respond to the need of the hour. Islam's present generation should be more vigilant if it does not wish posterity to judge it the same way it judges the previous generation. It is hoped that the Tehran conference will prove the first step in this awakening.

Pakistani Ground Forces Commander Arrives 2 Nov

LD0211113391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] The Pakistani ground forces commander, General Asif Nawaz, arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a high-ranking military delegation and was welcomed by the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] commander, General Mohsen Reza'i.

In an interview with our correspondent upon his arrival, the Pakistani ground forces commander, expressing his pleasure with his visit to Iran, described the visit's objective as improving the two countries' ties and strengthening mutual defense power. He stressed that during his talks with Iran's military officials, he will be discussing the latest regional developments and the two countries' friendly relations. During the interview, the IRGC commander also expressed pleasure with the visit and said that the Pakistani commander's visit is in response to his own visit to Pakistan and the program for expanding ties between the two countries.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0511110591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, at a meeting with Asif Nawaz, the commander of Pakistan's Ground Forces, and his accompanying delegation this morning, expressed satisfaction for the two countries' overall cooperation in various fields. He said: One of the signs that sincerity exists in Iran-Pakistan relations is the visits by the two countries' military officials and their cooperation in various fields. In view of the many technical and research possibilities in Iran and Pakistan, the two countries can have greater cooperation.

In the course of this meeting, also attended by Major General Mohsen Reza'i, the commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, the president expressed the hope that border cooperation between the two countries for more effective confrontation against bandits and merchants of death [drug traffickers] will expand further.

At the start of this meeting the commander of Pakistan's Ground Forces expressed pleasure at visiting the Islamic Republic of Iran and presented a report to our country's president on his highly fruitful talks with the military officials of our country. In conclusion, Mr Asif Nawaz expressed gratitude for Iran's principled stances vis-a-vis the issue of Kashmir.

Further on Visit of PRC President Yang Shangkun

PRC Ambassador Previews Visit

LD2910170391 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] PRC President Yang Shangkun will arrive in Tehran tomorrow on a three-day state visit to our country. In his state visit, which comes at the invitation of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the PRC president will hold talks with high-ranking officials of our country on important world and regional topics and ways of expanding ties between the two countries.

On this occasion our correspondent interviewed the PRC ambassador in Tehran on topics of interest between the two countries.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hua Liming, the PRC ambassador in Tehran, in an interview with the Islamic Republic Voice and Vision today, elaborated on topics related to the Chinese president's visit to Tehran, as well as Iranian and Chinese relations and the Middle East peace conference. Referring to the PRC president's prospective visit to Tehran, he said that in view of world developments, it is necessary for Iran and China to foster closer relations—closer than every before—and to support each other. Turning to longstanding relations between the two countries, he also said Iran and China have identical views on many political and social issues, despite the fact that they adhere to different ideologies.

Continuing his remarks the Chinese ambassador referred to the Middle East peace conference, saying that so long as the rights of the people of Palestine are not restored to them, the problem of the Middle East will continue to defy any solution and the peace conference will fail to attain basic results.

PRC Role in Reconstruction

LD0111171591 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Interview with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentifed correspondent at Tehran Airport on 1 November—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, one of the topics of discussion was the reconstruction issue, and China has expressed willingness to participate the reconstruction of our country. What are in your views about the fields of this participation?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There are important schemes which are in hand, or are in the plan, such as railways, power stations and dams and such like, in all of which the Chinese have a good record and input. The areas of participation were discussed. Of course the joint committee must review this to find out what their resources are, and our view about their resources is determined. I

believe the presence of the Chinese will be somewhat increased in our country's construction.

[Correspondent] Many thanks.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Praises Visit

LD0111140291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Interview with President 'Ali AKbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified correspondent at the Tehran airport on 1 November—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, various subjects were discussed during your negotiations with the Chinese president. One of them was the expansion of ties between Iran and China. Noting the relations that existed and the negotiations that you held, how do you see China's role in the region? What are the grounds for cooperation with our country?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The new conditions that exist in the world, such as with the situation with the Soviets, means that countries such as China—non-aligned and a considerable world power—have greater responsibilities in today's world. In Asia, particularly, we believe that under the new conditions, it must attain its own status in world policies. China is an important axis of power. In the UN Security Council, through their right of veto, they play an important role. Therefore, one must take China into account; one must take Asia and China into account. The non-aligned countries must surely play a more fundamental role. One must use China's resources if one hopes for movement in the Third World. Fortunately, the Chinese president had a useful stop-over in Pakistan. Here, we had ample opportunities in various meetings to assess the issues under the new conditions and examine the influence that the United States has achieved in the Middle East with the peace conference and so on. We analyzed the problems thoroughly. We imagine that a major task for the future is coordination between those countries that are prepared to safeguard the interests of the people and smaller countries. China is one of those countries. I am pleased with the Chinese president's trip to Tehran. Both sides expressed their pleasure over the outcome of this visit en route to the airport. I hope to see its effects in the future.

Military Cooperation With PRC

LD0111163691 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1608 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The visit to Iran of the Chinese president takes place at a time when the world political and economic equations have undergone major changes, particularly since the end of the Persian Gulf war, which would certainly take the two countries' relations to a new height. At the same time that the United States, despite China's denial, has increased its pressure on China for providing arms and nuclear know-how to the countries of the region, Beijing intends to expand its relations with the countries of the region. Some political observers see that visit within those frameworks. The same political observers believe that the presence of the Chinese president in Pakistan and Iran, at the current sensitive situation, provides an appropriate opportunity for the three countries to review their policies towards recent developments, and ways of confronting the world hegemonist systems.

The expansion of the three countries' cooperation and relations, while enabling those countries to reduce impressively the existing political and economic obstacles on the way of their political, economic progress, it would undoubteldy also establish a new system for the maintenance of regional security without the presence of the world powers, particularly the United States, in the form of defense and military cooperations between Iran, Pakistan, and China.

In any case, currently the most important and fundamental issue for the three countries of Iran, China, and Pakistan is the issue of making efforts to expand cooperations on regional and international affairs and ways of confronting the new world order engineered by the U.S. President. The issue which can open a window of opportunity in the future of the three countries' relations.

Leaves Tehran; Praises Relations

LD0111135591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] PRC President Yang Shangkun, visiting our country at the head of a high ranking political and economic delegation, at the end of his three-day official visit to Tehran—which took place at the invitation of 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani—left Tehran this morning. He was officially seen off by Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Before leaving Tehran, the PRC president said: I believe that the two countries' relations are improving. He expressed satisfaction over talks with Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other officials of our country and added: I and my accompanying delegation brought to Iran the deep sentiments of the Chinese people, and now we are taking back with us the deep and friendly sentiments of the people of Iran for the Chinese people.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD0211112691 Tehran IRNA in English 0827 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Esfahan, Central Prov., Nov. 2, IRNA—Visiting Chinese President Yang Shangkun who arrived here Friday left this ancient city for Beijing Saturday morning.

Yang was seen off at the airport by Finance Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh and a number of local officials.

While here, Yang toured the historical monuments of the city and attended a banquet given in his honor by the governor general Friday night.

Yang arrived in Tehran last Wednesday on a four-day state visit and held talks with his Iranian counterpart President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and other high-ranking officials, including Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i.

ABRAR Warns of 'Fresh U.S. Schemes'

LD0211083391 Tehran IRNA in English 0721 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—The Persian daily ABRAR Saturday warned against fresh U.S. schemes against Iran and called for formation of a united anti-imperialist front in the region and further support for Muslim revolutionary forces. The daily, in a front-page commentary referred to the latest U.S. allegations against Iran on proliferation of nuclear weapons in cooperation with China at a time when Chinese President Yang Shangkun was paying an official visit to Tehran. Yang wound up his visit Friday.

The West, ABRAR said, has directed its propaganda pressures and threats against the Islamic Republic over the past several months, which the paper concluded, might be a gesture of its dissatisfaction with the Tehran conference on Palestine as well as Iran's rejection of the so-called Mideast peace conference in Madrid.

Citing another example of the West's plots, the paper referred to Suleyman Demirel's remarks after his victory in the recent parliamentary elections in Turkey. Demirel has reportedly proposed to the new Ankara government to proclaim war against those countries which allegedly backed Kurdish guerrillas in that county. Ankara had earlier implicitly claimed that Iraq, Iran, and Lebanon were supporting the Kurds. The commentary, however, reiterated that Iran would never resign to the U.S.-schemed new world order, particularly for the Middle East and predicted that Tehran could be the next U.S. target.

"Iran should prevent concentration of reactionary and Western forces in the region through forming a unified anti-imperialist front composed of the countries opposed to the West's policies and through intensifying its support for the Muslim revolutionary forces, with the aim to inflict blows on the West's interests in the region."

Va'ezi on Resolution of Dispute With France

LD0411104991 Tehran IRNA in English 0922 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—Iran and France will sign the final agreement for their long-standing financial disputes here next month, a senior official involved in the matter was quoted as saying Monday.

Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi told JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI that the agreement would be followed by a protocol for bilateral political, economic and cultural cooperation.

Va'ezi, who is just back from a visit to Paris where he held talks with a number of French officials, noted that the agreement, containing 16 articles and 20 appendices, would be signed during the forthcoming visit of the French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas to Tehran.

Tehran-Paris financial disputes date back to about 12 years ago when France refused to completely pay back its $1 billion debt to Iran granted by the ex-shah for the establishment of "Eurodif" company.

Following lengthy discussions between officials of the two countries France has so far paid back $630 million in two stages.

According to the agreement Iran's shares and membership would also be preserved in Eurodif, a company in charge of enriching uranium.

Va'ezi noted that Tehran-Paris financial disputes contained five different important cases. Two of them, he said, belonged to the loan Iran had granted to France, one to a contract with a French consortium for building two power stations in Karun region (southern Iran) which it failed to fulfill after the revolution, and the last two pertained to Iran's shares and membership in Eurodif.

He added that over 50 percent of the money France owed to Iran would be paid within 48 hours after the signing of the final agreement and the remaining in three installments. He did not disclose any figure.

However, Va'ezi said, the final agreement would remove all bottlenecks on the way of the expansion of bilateral ties and furthermore would set a clear framework for mutual cooperation in future.

Release of American Accused of Spying Cited

PM3010152691 Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 16 Oct 91 p 8

[Editorial: "Are the Local Press Not Privy to the News?"]

[Text] Once again a news item passed right under our noses and we heard about it from the other side of the world. The American, John Patis, who was in prison in Iran on charges of spying, suddenly turned up in Washington.

The news of Patis' release was broadcast from Washington to Tehran on the afternoon of Monday 7 October by the ASSOCIATED PRESS [AP] news agency. The item said: "An American official who did not wish to be named said that John Patis had been released on Monday 7 October and is on his way to Washington by way of Europe."

One of the local morning newspapers which had denied the news of Patis' release one day later, on Tuesday 8 October, wrote: "Unfortunately, once again the judicial officials have continued their usual trend of being late with breaking news items. After the foreign news agencies had written about the release of John Patis and broadcast this all over the world, and after the foreign radios had broadcast whatever commentary they wished, the public relations offices of our judicial power confirmed the news."

The morning newspaper went on to explain why it had earlier denied the news, saying: When the reporter from JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI tried to get in touch with our judicial authorities because he had become suspicious about the news of the release as broadcast by the foreign media, he was told by a high-ranking judicial official that the news was not true!

There are some worthy points to consider with regard to the news of John Patis' release. The first is that AP had the news first, even though the event occurred in Tehran. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, quoting a high-ranking judicial official, denied news of the release the day after it had happened, at a time when John Patis had already reached his home in the United States.

While the judicial official, according to JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, denied the news of Patis' release, the Islamic revolution court confirmed the news on the following day, Tuesday.

In addition to this, it was announced that John Patis had been accused of spying, was tried in a revolution court in 1987, and was sentenced to 10 years. At the same time, the public relations' office of the Islamic revolution prosecutor's office confirmed the news of the release on Tuesday, saying that Patis had spent five years in jail and that after going through legal procedures, he was released like any other prisoner.

If the sentence for Patis was 10 years, what sort of activity has taken place to get him released after five years?

If officials inform the local press on time and if they give adequate details, will there be questions later? We hope this does not mean that the local news are not privy to the news.

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD0111154891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili, provisional Friday prayers imam for Tehran, in Tehran on 1 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] On the occasion of 13th of Aban [4 November] and the incidents which occurred on that day—his eminence the imam's exile, the student's day, the seizure of the den of spies—those memories, which all of us remember, as if they occurred yesterday—we must not forget those days at all, and keep their memories alive, especially these days. The trouble that has befallen the world of Islam—we have to say something about this, too, to express our feelings.

In my view, what goes on for us these days is one of the most bitter and repugnant days for Islam—and that is the events of the day. Many tasks have been undertaken. There was a revolution, thanks be to God, and results were achieved. Because of the actions that took place in the region, as well as events that occurred in the world, world imperialism, the world-devouring United States, the Great Satan, was victorious in the war, in the oil war, in the Persian Gulf war; they dragged the others behind them; became dominant in the energy region; and have now ensconced themselves here and do whatever they like, bully the world as much as they want. They consider themselves masters of the world, and the people their serfs, and the territories their own, and God's gifts their special belongings. They have no fear. They have come over here. They are a danger to the world, to the deprived of the world. They are a danger to the region, they are a danger to Islam. Now that they have come here today, this is what our status is—because they do not have a rival before them; they do whatever they desire. That is what they did in Palestine, what they did in Lebanon; and now this is what they do in Madrid. Nor does the Soviet Union confront them—they dragged the Soviet Union to ruin; nor is the European Union there—one cannot rely on that so soon. As soon as a word is said to the effect that Germany and France want to conclude a military pact, no sooner do they look at them, the issue subsides and is ignored.

Now what should be done? There are two things: What must be done about the United States and what must be done about Palestine. Perhaps even both of them will eventually arrive at the same point. One cannot pin one's hope on governments. Governments are mercenaries. Governments are puppets. Governments are the same ones which sent representatives to Madrid. They talk, they clear their voices in front of Israel, and boast so that in hearing them, one thinks that so and so's representative did not speak badly, he spoke very well. Those who went and said we want the Golan, and so on, imagined that they would say: Very well, you are right, here you are. That is what they had in mind. What had not happened in the last decades—Arabs and Israelis sitting at the same table, opposite one another—they wanted to say that it was achieved. It was said that it was not possible, but it was achieved. They have already gotten their results from the session. They know that those Arabs who have been sent as representatives will not write in their own hand that they have come here to sell out the aspirations of Palestine and to accept becoming Israel's servant; no madman would do that. Those who used to say that the territories are ours, that you are not

recognized, that you are usurpers, that you are thieves, are now saying that you are a state; we are a state; you are a reality and we are a reality. But we have a dispute: a border dispute, a land dispute. They have been duped. And they have come and done this. They will not get any results from this conference, either. But the United States has gotent its results and has announced this. It said that this much was positive for us.

Now, hoping that those governments will resist Israel, resist the United States, and clash with them, there is not a one percent probability of that. But there is one thing—and that is the nations. They are the crystallization of God's unending power. Wherever those powers confronted each other, the one that has been more powerful has won; wherever they have confronted the people they have been defeated. In Iran we saw it with our own eyes in Vietnam—which you were informed about at the time. It is the same in other revolutions. When they are faced with the people they cannot do anything. [crowd chants "God is great," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

The moves so far have been beautiful. In Egypt, the people of Egypt, the people of Jordan, the Palestinian people, the Lebanese people, and those of other places, such as Algeria and other Arab and non-Arab nations, with the Iranian people at their helm, thank God. [sentence as heard]

In Iran, we do not have people and government: Everyone is together; the honorable leader, the president, the state, the people, the whole nation, the universities, the workers and employers. Thank God, we are all together. We are united over this issue and other issues. [crowd chants support]

The moves have been good. As of now, the Madrid conference has been set on fire. Even now, they say on the one hand, that we have results; while on the other, they have already begun to sound a negative note.

It is not that these governments are not scared of their people, even though they are scared of their masters. In the end, they have to live among the people. These Arab countries, these Arab brothers, Muslim brothers, the people, if they set up resistance cells—let them know that those who imagine that they have harnessed the governments, the people, will question this state of affairs. Will the people become their slaves? This is not the case. If they will it, if they rebel, if they make them feel insecure, then they will not be able to sleep comfortably.

O Muslims of the world, oppressed of the world. O Muslims, they have come from the other side of the world. It is as though they have come to a cemetery. Know that you are strong, that you can rebel. You have the philosophy of martyrdom. You are the ones who say: If we kill, we go to heaven; if we are killed, we go to heaven. They are not like this. If they find out that they are falling in every corner; they will not resist. They will not risk their lives.

I think, I believe, that God willing, this movement that has started in Islamic countries will not fall silent. Islamic honor and the fervor of the Muslims will intensify daily; they will assist and support the oppressed Palestinian people. Today it is Palestine. The United States' concern is not over Palestine alone; they are intent on the enslavement of the whole region, they want to make everyone slaves. They have got it wrong. When the people's blood boils, in Iran the people showed them. If one day the people rise up, one cannot resist that tide. However, if we sit down today, tomorrow will be too late. O Muslims, rise up. Come and help Islam. [crowd chants "Death to America," "Death to Israel"] Teach this enemy of Islam another lesson. [passage omitted]

Jannati Accuses Madrid Participants of Treachery

LD0111190391 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1450 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Ahmed Jannati in Qom on 1 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Another issue these days concerns the Madrid conference. However much one speaks about this issue, one has still said too little. One does not understand how those participating in the conference find the courage to face their people upon their return. Do they deem the people as ignorant? Do they really believe that the people are so ignorant that they fail to distinguish between a traitor and a faithful person? Do they not perceive that conference as a 100 percent American-Israeli one? Do they not see that participation in that conference is highly suggestive and that after 42-43 years of war and strife against Israel, it is tantamount to surrender and the infringement of the pure blood of the Palestinians and other Muslims killed while defending the Palestinians? Are they so shameless that despite their awareness—and they are certainly aware, due to the numerous protests which are being staged throughout the world—they find the courage to face the people? However, they never have the opportunity to face their people—not like Iran where the leader has the opportunity to come face to face with the people—the entire masses—at the Friday prayers and his meetings with them—and are only seen by the people from behind the television screen; they never appear in a crowd, unless one composed of their own clique. In any case, they have indeed bore a humilation and yielded to a disgrace of little historical precedence. One is indeed demoralized by observing them. [passage omitted]

They are sitting in a line across the table from Shamir—and how the Americans have capitalized on this issue. Bush came in person and they dragged Gorbachev there, giving the issue much weight. Now that they have all come, what are they saying to them? And they call this peace. Peace according to them means that "we will not return an inch of your territory," that "we will not pull back by even an inch," that "we will not give you any kind of concession," that "you must only concede, give up fighting us, and raise the white flag." Is this what they

call peace? At the same time, they are bombing the Islamic country of Lebanon—simultaneously. At the same time, they are building Jewish settlements, replacing Muslims with Jews. What is the name of this? What kind of humilitation is this? What kind of disgrace is this? Is not death more pleasant for them than this humiliation and the acceptance to participate in that conference, whatever result it may achieve. I am surprised as to why the 'ulema of the Islamic countries have kept aloof, not breathing a word. The only person quoted in the news as having come bravely forward was Shaykh Muhammad Ghazali, who is a highly admirable and valuable man. [passage omitted]

They quoted Ghazali as saying that those capitulating Jerusalem to the Jews are apostates and traitors, they are traitors to Islam. This deserves much credit. Of course, we expected the remark to involve more that just Jerusalem. Would the issue be resolved if they returned Jerusalem to Muslims and took the rest? Would that no longer be a treachery? Is Jerusalem the sole concern? True, Jerusalem is of greater importance, but inch by inch of the Islamic territories have been usurped and are in their hands. Those who surrender to this usurpation are commiting a treachery against Islam and Muslims; there is no doubt about that. But in any case, that religious edict [fatwa] pronounced in a seminar comprising university professors and prominent and distinguished scientific and cultural personalities is of great value and worth. But why should this remark be made only by Shaykh Muhammad Ghazali? Why is it that all those 'ulema teaching in Egyptian universities and other Arab universities, holding lectures and the attention of the students, and also those with right to issue edicts, have not called for the boycott of the conference? There have been calls for a boycott, but not enough. Some others have called for a boycott, but they have not managed to create a wave, and a wave is what is needed. An edict pronounced somewhere, and later forgotten in a short period, is not effective. They have to shake the world of Islam. The edicts by 'ulema in all Islamic countries—Arab or otherwise—should serve as a guidance to the people. Any Muslim should see that anyone taking part in that conference is committing a treachery against Islam. The people must be fully aware of this, so that the Arabs participating in the conference do not come and claim to be Muslims tomorrow. This is the nature of the disgrace they have left Muslims with, and the bloodshed which will ensue.

Do they think that the issue will end here, that Israel will be contented by this? Now that you are sitting there, what do you plan to do with the Palestinian Muslims? Do they have a right to live or not? Do they have the right to reside in their own homes or not? Do they have the right to enjoy life or not? Do they need schools or not? Do they need hygiene or not? What is going to happen? Will they surrender? Will they accept the shameful agreements the U.S. Government wishes to impose on the Islamic world? It is indeed impossible for the zealous Palestinian and all intrepid youths in other countries to accept this. How do you plan to cope with them? They will not let you reach your grave in one piece. [passage omitted]

We hope they will suffer the consequences of this crime. Finally, I advise all the dear ones to honor 13 Aban [4 November]. We must safeguard the memories of 13 Aban every year, as one of our Islamic, political, and divine duties. This year, we should even attach greater importance to that day, due to its closeness to the Madrid conference. Indeed the Islamic world should have called for a day of public mourning and should have suspended work on the day of the conference. But it has not happened. Now this country, which is the sole mouthpiece of Islam and the oppressed and deprived Palestinian Muslims, should attach as much importance to its struggle and its opposition to such treacherous acts, and the best occasion for this is this very 13 Aban, which is named as the day of struggle against the global arrogance. It is that very global arrogance which is now plotting in Madrid, forecasting a black future for Islam and the Muslims. It is necessary for our men, women, the educated and the uneducated to take part in the 13 Aban ceremonies, making it a glorious ceremony, so that at least we have done what we are capable of doing in practice. [passage omitted]

Nepal & Bhutan

'Unprecedented Challenge' to King From Hardliners

BK2410100091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0823 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 24 (AFP)—The king of the tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan this month faced an unprecedented challenge from loyalist hardliners and had to resort to a threat to abdicate to avoid an ethnic split, Bhutan's only newspaper reported.

The newspaper, KUENSEL, copies of which were received in India Thursday, said in a lengthy report that the hardline challenge came up in the country's National Assembly "for the first time in the assembly's 38-year history."

King Jigme Singye Wangchuk: "reminded them (the Assembly members) that he had repeatedly stated his readiness to abdicate if a permanent solution to the ngolop problem was not found," the paper said.

'Ngolop' (traitor) is the name the Bhutanese Government gives to dissidents of Nepalese descent, most of whom are settled in the country's south and who have since 1989 started rebelling against the enforcement of traditional Bhutanese Buddhist customs.

Officially, Bhutanese of Nepalese descent, many of whom are Hindus, account for some 35 percent of the population of 600,000, but independent sources say the figure may be as high as 50 percent.

Travellers from the kingdom, which has few contacts with the outside world apart from officially-limited tourism and U.N. development projects, have said the ethnic problem is threatening to assume the dimensions of a civil war.

KUENSEL said the government and people's assembly representatives urged the king to crack down on the 'ngolops', stop development projects in their areas, "screen" recruits into the Army and government service and extradite and try those who had fled to neighbouring Nepal and India.

"It was only his majesty's personal intervention on several occasions which prevented a clear ethnic split and hardline resolutions from being adopted by the National Assembly," KUENSEL said.

The paper quoted the 35-year-old king, who has ruled the country for the past 18 years, as arguing that ties with both India and Nepal were good and that in any case there was no extradition treaty with Nepal.

The question before the Assembly was how to find a lasting solution to the problem, and stopping development projects in the south of the country would not achieve this, KUENSEL quoted him as saying.

Before the end of the stormy week-long debate, hardliners, whom Bhutanese Embassy sources here said constituted "almost all" of the 150 member Assembly, argued that 349 civil servants, 26 forest guards and 99 Bhutanese Army and police had either "absconded" or "joined the ngolops."

Royal Civil Service Commission Secretary Dasho Khandu Wangchuk told the house that although 5,383 out of the country's 12,023 civil servants were of Nepalese descent, it was becoming increasingly difficult to employ them because of the security risks involved.

Notable in backing the king in his arguments during the session which started October 8 was Foreign Minister Lyonpo Dawa Tsering, KUENSEL said.

The embassy sources in Delhi said the hard-line challenge to the king had been evident since September 12 when a meeting of village leaders in the southern town of Samchi had asked the king to expel family members of known resistance members.

The king refused, the sources said, and added that being able to prevail over an Assembly which argued that his policies were being misinterpreted as weakness had left him free to continue to amnesty those arrested for "anti-national" activities.

King Misses Summit Due to Unrest

BK0211074991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0705 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Colombo, Nov 2 (AFP)—The King of Bhutan Jigme Singye Wangchuck will not attend next week's summit here of the seven-member South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), officials said Saturday.

Bradman Weerakoon, international affairs advisor to President Ranasinghe Premadasa, said the Bhutanese monarch had decided not to participate due to domestic compulsions and his decision was conveyed to Colombo Friday.

Bhutan will however be represented by a senior minister, he said.

Political sources said King Wangchuck had decided to keep away from the three-day SAARC summit commencing November 7, due to political unrest in southern Bhutan.

SAARC groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Earlier, Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao had informed the Sri Lankan Government that he would cut short his visit to Colombo to 24 hours during which he would attend the opening ceremony of the SAARC conference.

Rao's inability to participate for the entire duration of the summit was because of forthcoming by-elections in India which Rao himself is contesting, officials said.

Prime Minister Delays Departure

BK0511043091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0425 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 5 (AFP)—Nepal Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala Tuesday postponed his departure for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit in Colombo, the state radio reported amid speculation that he would not attend the meeting.

A Foreign Ministry source said Koirala had received a call from outgoing SAARC Chairman President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives about the validity of the summit following the decision last week of Bhutan's King Jigme Singye Wangchuck to stay at home for domestic reasons.

Sources close to the prime minister said an official announcement on whether Koirala would make the trip would be made later Tuesday after he had another talk with Gayoom to clarify the situation.

All previous summits of SAARC, which groups Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, have been attended by heads of state or government.

Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratna said Saturday after the king's decision was made public that the summit could still proceed with an "accredited representative" of the absent head of state.

Senior officials in Colombo said Thursday that Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao would attend the opening of the three-day summit on November 7 but would leave within 24 hours because of domestic pressures.

Pakistan

China To Supply Fuel for Newly Designed Reactor

BK0411155791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The modified and improved nuclear research reactor which became functional at the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology, Pinstech, on 31 October has been described as a significant step forward in the country's efforts for acquiring expertise in the field of nuclear technology.

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed, while briefing newsmen at Pinstech about the success of Pakistani engineers and scientists, said that this reactor will now be able to provide safer and better facilities for the next 20 years in the fields of research, training, and production of isotopes. He said this reactor, which will take many months to attain its full capacity of 10 megawatts, is more modern and effective and has better safeguards. This newly designed reactor will be able to function even with 20-percent enriched uranium following the suspension of the supply of highly enriched uranium by the United States. The fuel for this reactor will be supplied by China under an agreement because the preparation of this fuel is not economically beneficial.

Police Raid Jamiyat-e Eslami Office, Arrest 8

BK0311152591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1455 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Karachi, Nov 3 (AFP)—Police raided the office of the fundamentalist Jamiyat-e Eslami (JI), a component of Pakistan's ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance, here Sunday, arresting eight people, the party said.

Munawar Hassan, local JI chief, said records were also confiscated and blamed the Sindh provincial government for what he called "a naked act of victimisation."

He said police also roughed up the office guard when he resisted the "intruders."

The fundamentalist organisation has a longstanding political rivalry with the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), which controls the provincial government.

Tariq Javed, a politician of the MQM, the party of Urdu-speaking Mohajir settlers in Sindh, took over as acting chief minister in the province when Jam Sadiq Ali left for medical treatment in London recently.

The JI had also blamed the MQM for an attack by a mob on the office of its weekly newspaper TAQBEER here in September, but the MQM denied the allegation.

Minister Says Opium Production Increasing

BK0311153691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1006 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 3 (AFP)—Opium production in Pakistan's tribal areas bordering Afghanistan has risen to 200 tonnes annually, reversing a declining trend, a top official said here.

Minister for States and Frontier Regions Sardar Yaqub Khan Nasir, in a statement published in newspapers here Saturday, blamed the rise on dwindling foreign development projects in the tribal areas to generate alternative sources of income.

Tribesmen in the Gadoon-Amazai area in the North-West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan have traditionally depended on opium poppy cultivation to eke out a living, their numbers bolstered by some three million refugees from the Afghan war.

Production peaked in the early 1980s at about 600 tonnes a year, accompanied by an alarming increase in drug addiction among Pakistanis, before a U.S.-aided crop substitution programme gradually brought it down to 130 tonnes in 1989.

A U.S. report in March 1991 showed a sudden rise of 25 percent, boosting the figure to 165 tonnes.

"Afghan refugees and drug eradication projects must get financial support from all the friends in the world community as these are the problems with sole responsibility of Pakistan," [as received] Yaqub Khan said as he announced the new leap to 200 tonnes.

He criticized the U.S. Government for having "linked" its anti-narcotics project assistance with the nuclear issue, a move he called "unwise."

Washington cut off about 500 million dollars in economic and military assistance to Pakistan last year on suspicion that the country's nuclear programme was geared to making atomic weapons.

The minister said jobs and other forms of encouragement to the tribals to use their meagre land holdings for growing alternative crops were essential for curtailing production of poppy, the main ingredient of heroin.

The foreign-funded development programmes in the poppy-growing tribal areas have focussed on crop substitution, building roads and schools and providing tube-well irrigation in the mountainous region.

"A few (alternative) crops offer farmers a return equal to that of opium," the American report said.

It said the anti-opium drive was seriously hampered by the area's traditional political autonomy, impeding "access to and control" by government officials in the areas ruled by tribal chieftains. Other factors include politics and the weather.

Both residents and the U.S. sources affirm that weather conditions have benefitted the largely rain-fed opium crop in the past two years.

A political factor has also boosted opium production: The government, under pressure from the business community, withdrew incentives for industrial development in the poppy-growing area, apparently discouraging investment there.

Pakistan's fight against drugs is spearheaded by an Islamabad-based Narcotics Control Board with regional offices in the four provincial capitals.

Despite its efforts, however, abuse and smuggling of hashish, opium and heroin have proliferated. According to estimates the country has about two million drug addicts, including 1.2 million heroin addicts. The country's 30 drug treatment centres have reported a cure rate of about 20 percent with an unknown proportion of relapses.

Seizures of illegal drugs have continued in recent years, but they have little effect on poppy-growers, who do not manufacture heroin.

Authorities in recent months have reported eliminating a number of clandestine heroin laboratories.

Minister Meets U.S. Ambassador

BK0411070691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The government is committed to eradicating the evil of narcotics from Pakistani society and it will continue full cooperation in establishing a narcotics-free society all over the world. This was stated by federal Narcotics Control Minister Rana Chander Singh during his talks with U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Nicholas Platt in Islamabad yesterday. The federal minister informed the ambassador in detail of those measures that have been taken by the Pakistani Government to eradicate the evil of narcotics smuggling.

Bangladeshi Minister, Ishaq Khan Discuss Ties

BK0311142191 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] The Bangladeshi delegation led by Commerce Minister M.K. Anwar called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today and discussed with him the possibility of further increasing bilateral economic and trade relations, including the establishment of joint ventures and inclusion of new items in the bilateral trade list.

The president assured the Bangladeshi minister that Pakistan is keenly interested in the development of the fraternal Islamic country with which it enjoys common historical, cultural and, above all, religious ties. The Bangladeshi minister thanked Pakistan for its generous assistance for the flood-affected people of his country.

Further on Talks

BK0311163291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Pakistan is exploring new avenues of enhancing the economic cooperation in the fields of trade, communications, agriculture, industry, education, culture, science, and technology. This was stated by federal Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs Sartaj Aziz while inaugurating the fourth session of the Pakistan-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission in Islamabad today. He said that the commission is an ideal body for reviewing in detail the existing economic cooperation between the two countries and identifying new areas in this regard.

Bangladeshi Commerce Minister M.K. Anwar expressed the hope that the commission's meeting will provide an opportunity to review implementation of earlier decisions and directives for increasing the cooperation between the two countries. The Bangladeshi minister stressed the need for the creation of a durable base for cooperation by exchanges of students, technicians, and professionals.

Saudi King Establishes Afghan Reconstruction Fund

BK3010155391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1522 GMT 30 Oct 91

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 30 (AFP)—King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has established a multi-million dollar fund for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, Saudia Arabian Ambassador Yusuf al-Motabbakani announced here Wednesday.

King Fahd had allocated one billion rupees (about 40 million dollars) as an initial grant towards the fund, al-Motabbakani said at a news conference.

Afghan rebel government chief Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, foreign minister Borhanoddin Rabbani, a member of the fundamentalist Jamiat Eslami faction, and Mohammad Nabi-Mohammadi, leader of a moderate mojahedin group, were also present.

The Saudi money would be used to build schools, hospitals, roads and power plants in areas worst-hit by Afghanistan's 13-year civil war, al-Motabbakani said.

The priority areas for reconstruction would be northern Badakhshan Province, eastern Konarha, Nangarhar, Paktia, Paktika, western Herat, southern Qandahar Lowgar and central Badghis.

With the U.N. striving to restore peace in the country, construction work would start in spring and summer next year, the ambassador said.

Saudi Arabia hoped other Muslim countries and the countries of the world would also contribute towards the fund, he added.

Al-Motabbakani said Saudi Arabia and Pakistan would continue to coordinate their efforts to assist the Afghan resistance "till their final victory in the ongoing jihad (holy war)."

The ambassador also handed a cheque for 189 million rupees (about 6.5 million dollars) to Mojaddedi as a separate grant to pay the salaries of teachers in the several thousand educational and religious schools run by the resistance.

Teachers have not been paid for the past two months, and the rebel government had recently directed various mojahedin factions to take over institutions, jeopardizing the future of hundreds of thousands of refugee students, resistance sources said.

Currently, around three million Afghans live in Pakistan. A decline in international aid in recent years has left the various parties of the Afghan resistance short of funds.

Mojaddedi thanked Saudi Arabia and Pakistan for their help, saying they both remained on the "frontline in their support, for which the Afghan people are highly grateful."

Iran To Help Set Up Oil Refinery

BK0111090291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] State Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemical Corporation and national oil company of Iran have jointly decided to set up an oil refinery in Pakistan. The refinery will have a capacity to refine 700,000 metric tonnes of heavy crude oil annually to be provided by Iran.

Spokesman on Possible Purchase of French Aircraft

BK0211163891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1305 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 2 (AFP)—Pakistan is considering buying French Mirage 2,000 fighter jets, a senior military official said Saturday.

Air Force spokesman Air Commodore Munir said Pakistan was "looking for different types of equipment (and) the Mirage 2,000 is definitely one option."

But he added he had no information on any recent negotiations.

Well-informed sources in Paris said Thursday that a final contract would involve some 40 of the jets, which are currently in service with the French Air Force, although manufacturers Dassault Aviation the same day denied any ongoing negotiations with Pakistan for "any equipment whatsoever."

Other sources said a technical team from Dassault was in Pakistan two weeks ago while a sales team from the same company were in the country earlier the same month.

Since the United States imposed an embargo on Islamabad a year ago on suspicion it was developing nuclear weapons, the Pakistani Air Force has had problems maintaining its some 35 U.S.-made F-16 jets and has had to limit their flying hours, the sources said.

As a result Pakistan was looking elsewhere with the British Tornado and the Soviet MiG-29 other possible buys.

India, Pakistan's traditional rival, is already equipped with the Mirage 2,000 and any agreement to sell to Islamabad would have to have approval at a senior level in Paris because of the political ramifications.

Sri Lanka

Opposition Parties in Speaker No-Confidence Motion

BK0111161291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, four opposition parties have given notice of the no-confidence motion against the speaker, Mr. M.H. Mohamed, charging with violation of the standing orders of the house. The motion, the second in less than a month, has been signed by the leaders of the opposition SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party], MEP [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna], USA [United Socialist Alliance] and EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front]. It was handed over to the secretary general of Parliament yesterday.

The opposition had moved the first no-confidence motion against the speaker for rejecting an impeachment motion against President Premadasa after first accepting it.

LTTE Rules Out Talks With Government

BK0311160291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has ruled out any negotiations with the government to settle the northeast conflict. A state-run newspaper quoted senior LTTE leader Mr. Yogi as having stated on Friday [1 November] that negotiations with the government would be suicidal to the rebel activities.

Report on Mosad Ties Submitted to Premadasa

BK3110125491 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Text] The report of the Mosad commission of inquiry has been handed over to the president. It was presented by Justice S.W.B. Wadugodapitiya on Tuesday. Justice Wadugodapitiya was appointed by the president in terms of the Commissions of Inquiry Act on the 25th of September last year to inquire into and report on certain allegations contained in the publication entitled "By Way of Deception: The Making and Unmaking of a Mosad Officer." The commission has recommended that

a national intelligence and protective system be established in Sri Lanka and the improvement of travel control measures be undertaken in the context of national security. He has also recommended that the practice of purchasing used weapons for the Sri Lanka security forces be done away with.

Among the findings of the commission are that no Sri Lankan terrorist was trained in Israel by the Israeli agency Mosad, and no members of the Sri Lanka security forces were trained by Mosad in Israel during the relevant period. The commission said four high-ranking officers from the Army, Navy, and Air Force visited Israel on 30 June 1985 and returned to Sri Lanka on 8 July 1985, a six-day period [as heard], and there is a feasibility report in which two Israelis figured. They were sent to Sri Lanka by the Ministry of Agriculture of Israel consequent to the signing of an agreement between the Mahaveli authority of Sri Lanka and Ministry of Agriculture of Israel.